Wednesday December 18 1996

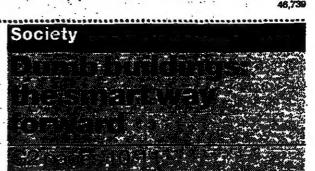
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Nhat Felix Dennis did next



Comment, page 9





Labour MEP Hugh Kerr, threatened with deselection for allegedly bringing party into disrepute

The Labour MEP:

I only offered Tony some advice The Party:

You're out, comrade

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE first victim of New Labour's drive to exert discipline and prevent elected members bringing the party into disrepute will be a leftwing member of the European Parliament who heckled Tony Blair at October's party

Hugh Kerr, unrecon-structed Old Labour MEP for the Harlow-based Essex West and Hertfordshire East constituency, is being threatened with deselection after regular public criticism of the party

leadership.
If he loses his nomination for the marginal seat at the European elections in two years' time, he will be the first elected member to be deselected under Labour's new disciplinary code. | knows about pensions' and he Wayne David, Labour said 'Oh really?' I think the

leader in the European Par-liament, said Mr Kerr had prought the party into disrepute by beckling at party meetings and badgering Mr Blair as he attended a reception organised by the privatised gas companies at the party conference in Biack-

Denying the charge, Mr Kerr said: "I do not have any enthusiasm for New Labour and I am sure they regard me as an unreconstructed wanker, but I am a socialist of the old school."

He said he had been having a drink at the conference with Peter Townsend, author with Baroness Castle of a contentious pamphlet on pensions, when the leader swept past. "I think all I said was: 'You ought to have a chat with Professor Townsend because he knows about pensions' and he

disrepute."
The leadership of the 63 Labour MEPs in the Euro-pean Parliament has been stung into action for fear of losing influence with Mr Blair and his inner circle at

Westminster. Mr David said: "From now on people who do step out of line will be dealt with. The party has a right to demand certain standards of decent and civilised behaviour and in my view Mr Kerr has not shown that. He is being made an example of.

"We want a close and posi-tive relationship with the Labour Party. A group of us meets Tony every six weeks to feed in policy at the highest level and we are not going to

have that relationship placed in jeopardy by the likes of Hugh Kerr."

The disciplinary threat fol-lows a series of disputes with the party at Westminster over Mr Blair's modernising drive. row last year, with 36 mem-bers of the European group, including Mr Kerr, signing an advertisement in the Guardan opposing the reform of Clause 4 of the party's

constitution. Mr Kerr has made little secret of his contempt for the party's direction in letters to the Guardian and articles for magazines such as Tribune. The 52-year-old former uni-

apparatchiks were livid that I had deflected the Great Leader on his way from the arena, but frankly it was very civilised and I cannot see that I have brought the party into discrepts "

member of the Trotskyite International Socialist group wrote earlier this year: "We desperately need a Lebour government but one that will not shirk the radical socialist." policies necessary to achieve a better deal for all."

The MEPs' group has yet to adopt the code of conduct but is likely to do so early in the

Its current sanction against Mr Kerr amounts to an at-tempt to deprive him of his chairmanship of the parlia-ment's delegation to Austra-lia, but Mr David said that un-less he fell into line tougher

measures could be taken.
"If his misbehaviour continues, disciplinary action could be taken under existing procedures, including the removal of the party whip which would mean he was not eligible for reselection . . . and that will be considered."



A committee of MPs

highlighted several

Bank of England's

devil they know

Ruaridh Nicoll in Kinshasa reports on

convalescence of President Mobutu

MERGING on to the steps of his chartered plane, Mobutu Sese Seko, the man in the leopard-skin hat, looked out happily on the country be has pillaged for 30 years. He was greeted

Equals Solution". Mr Mobutu, aged 66, de-clared he had defied doctors' orders to return and promised not to fitnch from the crisis facing the country in the wake of a rebel uprising in the east. "Each time that Zaire has been threatened in the past, I have never pulled back. I will never pull back,"

he said.
The returning exile was fol-

lowed by a fleet of planes loaded with washing ma-chines, television sets and video-recorders bought during his medical convals on the French Riviers.

Behind the public show of affection there is a vast land seething with resemment and unrest after three decades of corruption, misrule and now armed rebellion.

Gaetan Kakudit, spokesman for Laurent Kabila, president of the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces, said Mr Molu-tu's return changed nothing. "We know he is preparing a counter-attack, but we are confident and prepared to respond. The regime of Mr Mo-butu is a sick regime," he said by telephone from Brussels.

Zairean state radio had broadcast appeals on Monday for residents of Kinshasa to turn out in huge numbers to

in this country and thousands waited to welcome him. "It's happiness, total happi-ness," said Wabasa Gerembo, aged 38, from Kinshasa, as he waited for the plane. "We know he is living and walking

rement and Letters 9: Obituaries 10



Michael White Political Editor

tempting to shrug off Labour and Liberal Democra outrage after the discovery that Tory whips had cheated the Opposition over the votes of three MPs in order to guarantee victory in the tight Commons debate on

fishing policy.
In a classic piece of parlia-mentary skullduggery ahead of the crucial vote, three ailng or absent Conservative absent Liberal Democrats, then also paired with Labour MPs unable to be at the Com-mons — a sleight of hand that last night prompted Opposition leaders to suspend the system from the new year.

ment that promised concerted action to ambush the Govern-ment repeatedly in January as John Major struggles towards the election without a majority. It signals a cha otic start to election year.

At the heart of the row was a routine, if arcane, transac-tion designed to allow MPs and ministers to travel away from Westminster or be sick by "pairing" one absentee against another. No formal rules exist, only long-stand-ing conventions. They were occasionally breached by Labour's minority govern-ment in the late 1970s, though not in such a premeditated



his Liberal Demograt counters

success" that ministers promptly claimed, a defeat

when he paired Walter Sweeney, Terry Dicks and Sir Keith Speed with both sides. It was only 20 minutes be-

fore the 10pm vote on Monday that the Unionists decided to

abstain after obtaining con-

cessions on fishing policy, their leader, David Trimble,

confirmed last night. "We

constitution. Whether this or that was said in private and to whom, I do not know. But whatever happened, we would have won that vote."

Byzantine part of the

Michael Heseltine (left), yesterday

find it impossible to believe that the double pairing could be accidental," the Dewar-Labour Chief Whip, Donald Dewar, and Archy Kirkwood, Kirkwood statement said part, realised they could have won Monday's 216-305 vote by 317 to 316 if the three improp-Tory Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad. In effect, they erly paired MPs and the nine Official Uister Unionists — who abstained — had all accused their opponents of cheating. What startled MPs tine, defended the tactic. Mr Heseltine said: "The whips are a Byzantine part of Confidence vote against John Major; hence yesterday's anger. It was fuelled by the belief that the Tory whip, Derek Conway, must have known what he was doing

Whether this or that was said not know. But whatever hap-pened, we would have won that vote. That's why the Labour and Liberal Democrat

a suspension of all contacts through the "usual channels" between the parties. Mr Con-way, a bluff Geordie right-winger, went to ground as Mr. Dewar and Mr Kirkwood

& The Observer Briefcase

all-purpose bag, autity branded with the less international and the Observer logo, is made with a black heavy duty survax and is designed to hold everything on would carry in your attaché case. Expanding by 80%, features include a strong zip

PO Box 355, Bustley, Herts WD2 2NA, UK with a

room. But a whips' spokes-man said they had nothing to apologise for — a judgment not shared by more experi-

after a formal protest to the

parties are so furious."

The brazen response led to

enced Tory veterans of the

whips office. Last Thursday two sick Labour MPs, Jimmy Dunna chie and Martin Redmond, were "traded" sgainst two Tories, Mr Shepherd and Sir Keith, by George Mudie, num-ber three in the Labour whips' pecking order. On Monday he traded two more, Norman Godman and Gareth Wardell, when Mr Conway sent him a note — published last night — saying: "George two further names as prom-ised. K. Speed — R. Shepherd

4/4. Yours, Derek." But on Friday, in between also traded three of the four all wholly unaware of the Johnston, who were on speak rebel Sir John Gorst, would

The Opposition statement said: "Three Tory MPs had in fact taken out six Opposition

of double counting. Mr Heseltine, dismissing the row as "silly", recalled Labour's one-vote victory on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Nationalisation Bill in 1976, when an unpaired MP was sustituted for an absent pair at the last minute. Leftwingers later sang the Red Flag. Mr Heseltine responded by waving the Commons mace in the air, the origin of

Zaireans greet The Guardian International

the return from

by an enormous roar.
Thousands of Zaireans rushed under the jet that had flown him to the capital, Kinshasa, yesterday from exile in France as if they wanted to carry the plane on their shoulders. After nearly a year their "marshal" had come home. Two men held up a banner that read "Mobutu

"We need a new man to reconstruct the country."

greet the president — and they responded in style. Ne-glect does not breed contampt

turn to page 2, column 8

us or money order for the full amount or fill in you e send me____ Guardian international/Observer Briefcese/s _ 1 enclose a cheque/ money order for the sum

Inside

Steven Packman, who denies supplying ecstasy to Leah Betts, may face a: another trial after a jury was unable to.

reach a verdict.

Germany's Speaker was at the centre of sleaze allegations over claims she used: costly official transport for her . ortvate use.

World News

handling of the collapse last year of Barings Bank.

Sport Wembley, to be equit except for ite twin towers, is to be the languish national stackaria

Sketch

Fading Twilight of the Dwarves



Simon Hoggart

ARLIAMENT has become an endless version of the Ring Cycle. Like Bernard Levin, we are fated to sit in the same uncomfortable seat, witnessing the same repeated events — the same plot, the same lies, the same

The Germans have a word for it (I made it up for them): Zwergerdammerung, the Twilight of the Dwarves.

late 1970s, when the Labour Party broke pairing arrangements if it faced an important vote. The whips didn't try very hard to deny it then, any more than the Tories are trou bling to deny it now.

It's a cold winter's dusk, the wolves are chasing across the Steppes. Every now and again, another scrap of hon-our and credibility is tossed to the ravening pack, but still they are gaining, their hungry yelps echoing off the frozen stands of birch trees.

(Dr Zhivago wili return to your screens in half an hour. But now, Trevor McDonald

with News At Ten.) In the House of Commons yesterday, Prime Minister John Major was asked about the latest OECD report, which says that Britain's economy will grow faster over the next four years than any other

major industrial nation. Michael Heseltine implied on the radio that this would be imperilled by the whipping row: ministers would be pulled back from promoting British interests abroad, from selling British goods, from fact-finding trips to Barbados, from goosing chalet girls in ski resorts — I supplied the last two, but I'm sure that's what he meant.

Mr Major said: "There is no doubt that this is a glowing report." For some reason there was a silence behind him, filled by Labour MPs making "Rejoice, you bas-tards" noises in front of him.

"This is a glowing report," he repeated, and thus prompted, the Tories started Mr Blair asked him about

the beef crisis. Mr Major asked him about the OECD report. Mr Blair piped: "He's asking me questions! I would be very happy to swap roles whenever he wishes to call a general election!" The Prime Minister

accused Mr Blair of misleading the House on beef. Betty Boothroyd told him to with-draw the phrase, and he replaced it with "innocently misunderstood".

"Who are you kidding?" shouted Gavin Strang, Labour's agriculture spokes man. It tipped Mr Major over the edge. He began to halluch-nate. At this point, seasoned

explorers tell us, the temptation is to lie down. You are tired, the snow seems so soft, so welcoming, just a little nap can do no harm . . . But if you do you will never awake. (As we said, Dr Zhivago will

continue after the news.)
"He says, 'Who are you kidding?' He's supposed to be the agriculture spokesman. He's supposed to know!" he shouted at Mr Strang, Know what? He did not say.

Next he invented a character called the Minister for Portfolio, a hitherto unknown dignitary whose name had Labour members jeering so loudly they could scarcely hear his next line, a perfect, tautologous, meaningless Ma jorism: "Not only are the Liberais unable to agree among themselves, they cannot even agree with themselves Now we return to our feature film. Dr Zhivago.

Bomb convictions stand after report finds contaminated machine did not affect explosives evidence

Howard bars IRA appeals

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

CHAEL HOW ARD, the Home Secretary, in-sisted last night that the convicions of 14 IRA bombers will stand after receiving the results of an official inquiry into the discovery of contami-nated equipment at the Gov-ernment's Forensic Explo-

sives Laboratory.

The report, by Brian Caddy, who carried out a five month inquiry, found that the explosive samples examined at the laboratory had not been af-fected by a centrifuge ma-chine contaminated with

But Prof Caddy does criticise working practices at the Ministry of Defence labora-tory at Fort Halstead, Kent, and calls for a system of statu tory regulation among his 18 mendations.

Prof Caddy, of Strathclyde University, gave forensic evidence on behalf of the Birmingham Six to the Court of Appeal and advised the Maguire family during the May inquiry into the safety of the Gulldford Four convictions. Among the battery of pro-

osals to ensure the forensic aboratory remains "clean" in future is a recommenda-tion that all chairs with seat covers be replaced because of the danger of contamination. Work to bring the laboratory up to standard will cost Prof Caddy said the con-

tamination of the centrifuge machine used to identify ex-plosives evidence, which lay indiscovered for more than six years, was "potentially di-sastrous" for all cases using samples tested at the lab ween 1968 and 1996.



Patrick Hayes . . . jailed for Harrods litter bin blast

The cases

sor Brian Caddy looked

SEAN McNULTY, jailed for 15 years in 1994 for bombing oil and gas terminals on Tyneside. Prosecution case relied on footprints and Semtex tests on clothing, a mattress and a Ford Capri

It was only a fortunate ac-cident that brought the prob-lem to light. But his detailed examination of all 14 cases had shown that the explosive traces had "no observable effect" on the samples tested. The failure to test the cen-

trifuge over many years "is a scientific oversight which is unacceptable and is much to be criticised," said Prof Caddy. The problem lay in a small rubber bung which separated the glass test tube holding the sample being ana-lysed from its metal cylinder. Last night defence lawyers for the some of the 14 insisted



Jan Taylor . . . alleged to be a splinter group member

ROBERT FRYERS, a Belfast bouncer serving 25 years for conspiracy to cause explosions. Was arrested at north London bus stop with a Semtex device in a holdall.

key farm worker, jailed for 20 years. His defence claimed he was an unwitting stooge of Fryers who used his home to store explosives

PATRICK HAYES and JAN TAYLOR, both jailed for 30

that the evidence of contami-nation should be tested in the Court of Appeal. Neil O'May, solicitor for Dennis Kinsella, said: "Every case where the prosecution

has relied on evidence from
this laboratory to convict
people should be referred to
the Court of Appeal without
any other question arising.
The laboratory should be closed down and resited Joe Austin, Sinn Fein's

prisons spokesman, said the families of the prisoners would be bitterly disap-pointed: "I don't think any-



Dennis Kinsella . . . jailed for Warrington gasworks bomb

years in 1994 for London bomb attacks including explosion. English recruits to IRA and members of "Red Action" splinter

VINCENT WOOD, jailed for 17 years in 1993 for keeping Semtex for the IRA.

JAMES CANNING, an IRA quartermaster jailed for 30 years in 1993 for conspiracy

body is surprised by the out-come. But it won't stop the

campaign to prove the inno-rence of any of these people."

Lawyers for Sean McNulty.

whose conviction relied most

heavily on the forensic evi-dence, said the Caddy report

would prove "most relevant" for his Court of Appeal hear-

ing, which is pending.
In the Commons, Mr Howard said he had written to the lawyers involved telling them.

that the Caddy report did not

give him grounds to refer any of the 14 cases to the Appeal



John Kinsella . . . petty crook who allegedly buried Semiex

ETHEL LAMB, Canning's alled for three years. He duped her into using her west London home as a bomb factory. Since died.

PAIRIC MacFHLOINN and DENNIS KINSELLA, jailed or 35 and 25 years for Warrington gasworks blast.

JOHN KINSELLA, jailed for 16 years for possessing explosives. A petty criminal and Dennis Kinsella's

that the case for a Forensic Sciences Inspectorate implied

a "system of statutory regula-

tion" which was more far reaching than the advisory council recommended by the Royal Commission on Crimi-nal Justice four years ago. Mr

Howard wanted to consider

both proposals before making

Prof Caddy had also said

that he believed the current "dangerous practice" whereby some incendiary de-

vices were examined by other forensic laboratories not ex-



schec

after nu

Gerald Mackin . . . jailed for planting 12 bombs in London

uncle, he buried a bag of Semtex in an allotment.

NICHOLAS MULLEN. jailed for 30 years in 1994. The IRA quartermaster was detained after discovery of a bomb factory in Clapham,

GERALD MACKIN and DEREK DOHERTY, both jailed for 25 years for conspiracy to cause explosions in 1993. Planted 12 bombs in

north London. No one hurt.

with two of Prof Caddy's pert in explosives should end recommendations. He said He argued there were case He argued there were cases where what was thought were simple incendiary devices turned out to be bombs. But Mr Howard rejected this, say-ing he did not want to remove police discretion altogether. The shadow Home Secre

tary, Jack Straw, said an in dependent forensic inspector ate should be set up immediately. He said it was alarming that, as Prof Caddy had observed, it was only chance that led to the discovtraces in the crucial

Review

Fast show fails Schoenberg

Andrew Clements

Queen Elizabeth Half

RMINGHAM Contemporary Music Group is the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's younger sibling, drawing its members from the ranks of the orchestra but rapidly carving out a profile of its own, with concert series and an enlightened commissions policy.

which winds up back home in Birmingham on Friday — is an artful showcase of BCMG's achievements. There is a pair of 20th century classics - Ray el's Introduction and Allegro, and Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony - to frame the evening, works by the two composers, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Judith Weir, who have had formal

This touring programme-

specially commissioned by the usemble three years ago. The major disappointment was the BCMG's own commission, David Lang's My Evil Twin, first heard in 1992 and short on both material and musical point, and the highlights were the pieces by the

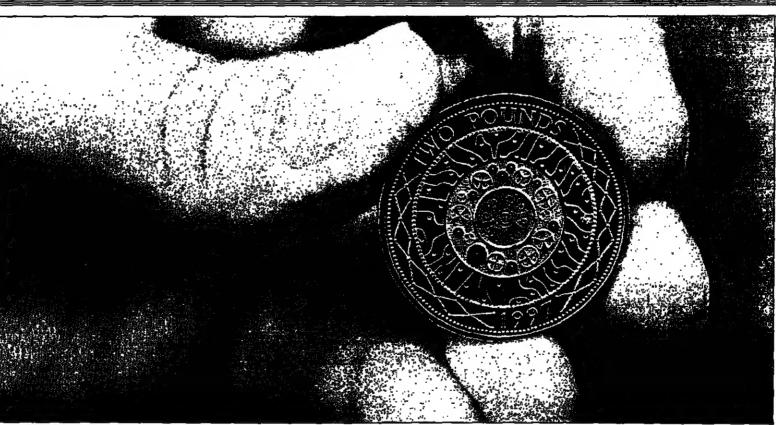
associations with the group

and the CBSO, and a piece

associate composers. Turnage worked in Birmingham for four seasons up to 1998, and Kai for cello and chamber orchestra was one of the major fruits of that collaboration, composed in 1990 for the group's principal cellist, Ulrike Heinen. It is a powerful memorial piece. heavily tinged with the the world of Turnage's abandone opera on the life of Charles Mingus, but there should be more rage, more explosive Thythmic energy in the writing than the young conductor Daniel Harding seemed able

Weir's The Consolations of Scholarship is utterly different. This piece, a pilot for her first stage work, A Night At The Chinese Opera, is 11 years old and remains her best piece to date: witty, perceptive and touching, as it retells a story from early Chinese theatre as a monodrama for mezzo-soprano and a handful of instruments which are used to char acterise each miniature scene

with its own sound world. Weir's world is a long way from Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony, which Harding rushed through, without managing to bring out its sinewy strengths or to pull together all the thematic threads in the finale. You wouldn't realise from this per-formance that this is one of the masterpieces of 20th century musical architecture. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.



The £2 in your pocket . . . the new coin has won praise for its design, symbolising the progress of British technology

Mint's £2 sweetie coins market in good taste

Martin Wainwright

HE British answer to the euro was unveiled yesterday, with a gritty design of coss and mechani-cal widgets to contrast with the pastal sketches of architecture favoured by Brussels.
The first bi-metal British coin since the heyday of back-street alloy forgery in the 18th century will become legal tender next November, with a ing pound.

face value of £2. Angela Knight, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, denied that the new denomination which follows a series of trial commemorative £2 coins in the last decade — was a back-door version of inflation. Monetary commentators have suggested that the "Polo" or "Rolo", as the sweetie-like yellow and silver object has been tentatively nicknamed, will rapidly replace the existing round

Aesthetic opinion was generally agreed that this would rial references to the Iron be a good thing, with the de-sign and double colouring winning points for taste as well as imagination.

The day's happiest observer was Bruce Rushin, a Norfolk comprehensive art teacher, who was better off by £10,000. He designed the winning circular pattern of cogs and lines which symbolises the pro-gress of technology in British history. Squashed into the

Age, industrial revolution, electronic age and Internet

ing to have created a design which I will be able to see in my everyday change," said Mr Rushin, who teaches at Flegg High School in Mar-tham. "I was keen to tell a story but it was also important that the design should not go out of fashion. I'm pleased and proud."

The coin also has a milled rim with the inscription standing on the shoulders of giants", from Sir Isaac New-ton's modest description of how earlier thinkers had helped him to discover grav-ity. Mrs Knight denied that the advent of the bland but EU-favoured euro would deny Mr Rushin's work a particu-larly long life. "We will make a decision on where we go with a single currency when

welcome back devil they know

Zaireans

continued from page I and the joy is shared by all Africans. For 30 years he has won wars, and be has kept the country together. What has happened in the east has happened because he's absent and now the enemy are in

When the president's plane landed, the army pushed back the hordes from the ramp in

front of the VIP lounge. Mr Mobutu was met at the bottom of the ramp by two girls with elaborate bouquets of flowers. Wearing a natty, flower-patterned tunic, black trousers and a smile, he made his way to a podium where he raised a black, silver-tipped cane above his head. He looked well enough — the prostate cancer had not killed

Later, a young man, sur-rounded by friends, murmured: "He is a great man, a great man for the army, but a terrible president."

Thousands more people lined the road along Mr Mobuto's 20-mile drive into the city centre, singing and shouting. Stylishly dressed people mingled with the poor in the run-down city.

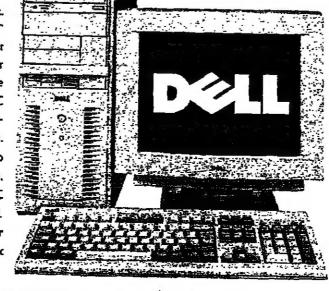
For the lucky people let through by the army, a vast buffet had been laid on beside the glorious rapids of the Congo river. There Mr Mobuto made a 10-minute speech. "I'm not going to disappoint you. I know your expectations and your hopes," he said. "Every time our country has been threatened in the past I have never retreated and this time again I will not retreat."

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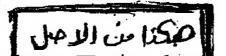
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Aid agencies under fire



Red Cross pulls foreign staff out of Chechenia after nurses are killed in hospital atrocity

David Hearst in Moscow

SENIOR official of the International Committee of the Red Cross questioned last night whether international aid organisations could continue to work in war zones after five nurses were murdered as they slept in their beds in a hospital in southern Chechenia

Masked gunmen smashed down the doors of a recently opened Red Cross hospital in Novye Atagi, a village south of the capital Grozny, and, using silencers, shot dead each of the nurses. A con-struction technician was also murdered. A seventh victim, left for dead, survived with gunshot wounds and was

It was the worst single atrocity the Red Cross has suffered in its 133-year history. Announcing that all foreign Red Cross staff were being pulled out of Chechenia, Thierry Meyrut, head of the delegation in Moscow, said he was "very pessimis-tic" that they would ever

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There is a dramatic tendency not only in this conflict but many others, where there is no respect for the Red or humanitarian organisations. The effect of become a sort of military tar-get and you lose your neutral-ity," he said.

The Red Cross pullout will leave the shattered city of Grozny bereft of help. The ICRC was the only organisa-



and means for schoolchildren.
Russian aid agencies were
among those who have already pulled out after a spate
of kidnappings and armed
attacks. Two large ransom deeign aid agencies to recover their staff.

members of the ICRC. They were identified last night as Hans Elkerbout, a construction technician from the Netherlands; Nancy Malloy, a medical administrator, aged 51, from Canada; nurses Ingebjorg Foss, aged 42, and Gunnhild Myklebust, aged 55, from Norway; Sheryl Thayer from New Zealand; and Ferman New Zeal nanda Cavado, aged 45, from Spain.

Christophe Hensche, the Swiss national in charge of the Novye Atagi office, was wounded. A German doctor and two X-ray technicians who were asleep in an adja-cent building were

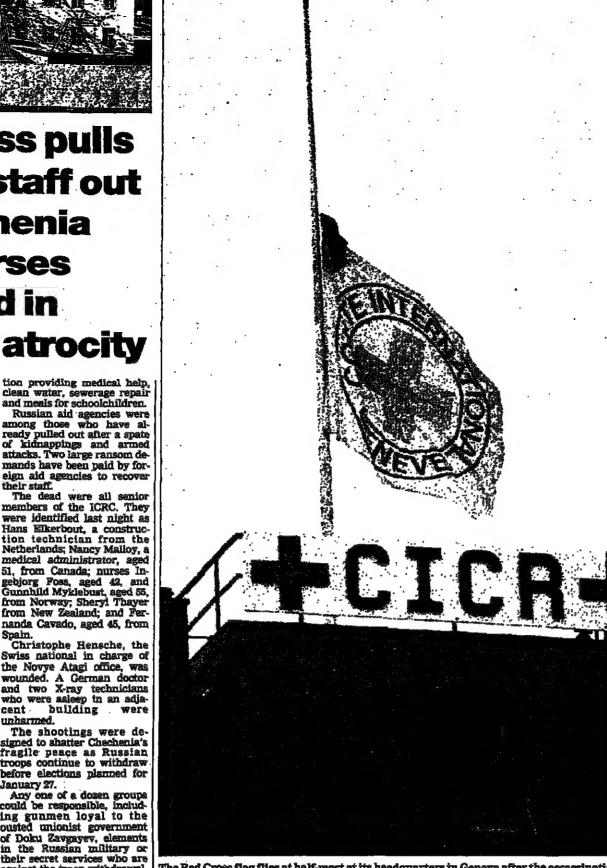
The shootings were de-signed to shatter Chechenia's fragile peace as Russian troops continue to withdraw before elections planned for January 27.

Any one of a dozen groups could be responsible, including gunmen loyal to the ousted unionist government of Doku Zavavav elements in the Russian military or their secret services who are against the troop withdrawal, or any one of a number of splinter groups and maverick Chechen gangs interested in destablising the elections.

Novye Atagi hospital, which opened in September to deal with the casualties of the retaking of Grozny by the seperatist army, is under the control of a Chechen local commander, Ali Hajiev

He had been used by the Red Cross as an intermediary when one of their staff was kidnapped a month ago. The villagers of Novye Atagi gathered to pay their respects outside the hospital

compound as the coffins were loaded on to trucks. Ruslan Kutayev, a Chechen government minister, said the killings were "an intentional and planned provoca-



The Red Cross flag files at half-mast at its headquarters in Geneva after the assassination of six delegates in Novye Atagi hospital (above left)

PHOTOGRAPH: DONALD STAMPFU PHOTOGRAPH: DONALD STAMPFU

The Russian government made its ritual condemnation. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, said it crime aimed at destablising

the region.

But officials privately washed their hands of respon-sibility, saying that security in the region was now solely provided by the separatist co-

altition government of Asian Maskhadov. A further sign that Che-chenia was descending into anarchy was the continued refusal of a Chechen field commander, Salman Ra-duyev, to free 21 Russian policemen seized by his group

commander, who master-minded the hostage-taking of 42 civilians on the Dagestan border last January, revelled in his power.

"I have put my troops on red alert," he said outside his headquarters in Novye

"If they [Russian or official Chechen forces] want to fight with me, let them come and we see who wins.

A group of 60 fighters loyal to Gen Raduyev disarmed and seized the policemen from the city of Penza, central Russia, when they tried to stop his motorcade driving into Dagestan. Gen Raduyev had planned to attend a meeting of Chechens in Dagestan.

Turmoil after Saunders win

and David Gow

HE embattled Seriby the disgraced for-mer Guinness chairman Er-

Rights that Mr Saunders had not been given a fair trial will force an urgent review of the law on corporate fraud and is yet another blow to govern-ment efforts to tackle City

In a verdict hotly contested by Eurosceptic Conservative lawyers, the court said Mr Saunders' right not to incrim-inate himself had been infringed at his 1990 trial because evidence obtained from him by government inspec-tors had later been used against him in a criminal prosecution.

methods used by the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry and the SFO to investigate al leged corporate corruption, including wide-ranging pow-ers to force suspects to answer questions that will al-

ous Fraud Office pean Court has said it is not last night vowed to good enough for suspects' resist any attempt rights to be curtailed in court cases."
At a news conference which

mer Guinness chairman is nest Saunders to overturn his conviction for fraud after he won a substantial victory in his decade-long battle to clear his name.

But the judgment by the European Court of Human rights consultant" held out the prospect of reopening the entire case by appealing again to the Court of Appeal via the Home Secre-tary, Michael Howard. The angry session came to

an abrupt end when Mr Saunders refused to respond to questions on his recovery from pre-senile dementia peal to halve his original sentence.

Mr Saunders claimed that the Strasbourg judges, who voted 16-4 in his favour, had suggested he would have been acquitted at his 1990 fraud trial if seven DTI interviews with him had been ruled

But the SFO said the court had made plain it could not speculate whether the outcome of the original trial would have been any differ-ent. "We shall therefore resist

most certainly have to be ahandoned.

Tony Woodcock, of solicitors Stephenson Harwood, said last night: "The European Court has said it is not good enough for suspects' rights to be curtailed in court and we will make an announcement as each as presents."

nouncement as soon as possible," it stated. The former Guinness chairman's rights were breached by the use in Crown Court of evidence he had court of evidence he had given on pain of imprisonment, the court ruled. "The right not to incriminate one-self lies at the heart of a fair procedure and applies to all types of criminal proceedings," the judges said.

Their ruling came nearly 10 years after Mr Saunders was sacked as head of the drinks giant in the wake of an inves-

giant in the wake of an inves-

giant in the wake of an inves-tigation by government in-spectors into allegations of share-price rigging.

But the judges threw out compensation claims total-ling nearly £4.7 million, of which £1 million was de-manded as recompense for the breach of Mr Saunders' rights and the resulting "anxiety, anguish and impris-onment". The court also cut Mr Saunders' expenses claim for the costs of going to Strasbourg from £836,460.75 to

Heritage chief censured

David Hencke

SENIOR Whitehall civil servant ran up hun-dreds of pounds of unauthorised expenses on a corporate charge card, got his employer to pay £4,500 for his old furniture and concealed details of a £161,000 advertising account, says a report published today.

Chris Green, chief executive of English Heritage, who quit his job last July, is accused of a "clear failure in the proper conduct of public business" in running the £110 million-a-year agency.

The criticism comes in a

eral. It reveals that Mr Green
— alone among the agency's 1,360 staff — was awarded his Underground. Mr Green paid returned to him.

own corporate American Ex-press card and ran up a £5,600 bill over his 16 months in the Most of the complaints

were about Mr Green entertaining guests at between £22 and £50 a head, breaking the Whitehall guideline limit of £21 to £24 per person a meal.

Mr Green inherited a fully furnished office which needed redecoration. But under a special deal he persuaded English Heritage to buy surplus furniture from his Edinburgh flat — which he was selling when he quit his job as chief executive of Scotrail to refurnish his office. He refused £3,762.50 but accepted

a revised offer of £4,431. But the main dispute was an advertising agency £25,000 plus 15 per cent commission to do the job, just after Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, had banned the use of outside advertising agencies. To stop the chairman finding out he falsified the accounts and rejigged the date of the contract. But Mr Stevens was alerted after a member of the public complained about the adverts on the Tube.

An investigation by Price Waterhouse exposed all three areas of misconduct, but Sir John said the concealment of the advertising campaign was the most serious offence.

Mr Green decided to resign

the day after the auditor's report was put to him. He did contract to attract tourists to pay-off, and also paid back English Heritage sites, 2291 in expenses and 53,481 launched on the London for his furniture — which was

Aide gets \$3m for life with Clinton

Stephanopoulos memoirs test legendary loyalty to Clinton

Martin Walker In Washington

EORGE Stephanopou-los, the White House political aide, has scaled a record-breaking \$3 million (about £1.8 million) contract for a book of mem-oirs of life with Bill Clinton on the campaign trail and in the Oval Office, which will test his legendary reti-

cence and loyalty to the president.

To recoup the highest sum paid for such an insider book, and for which a ghost-writer has yet to be selected, the New York publishing house of Little Brown is touting the Stephanopoulos memoirs in the industry as the non-fic-tion version of the best-selling political novel Primary

"I feel like I won the lottery," Mr Stephanopoulos said as the news broke.
"Now I have to do the work."

His agent who negotiated the deal, the super-lawyer Bob Barnett, put a highminded spin on the con-tract yesterday. He said the book "will have lasting significance for people who care about and study the presidency". Mr Stephanopoulos, the

son of a Greek Orthodox priest, has also lined up a job terching politics at Co-lumbia university in New York, and another as a po-litical commentator for the ABC-TV network. The television contract

which is reputed to include a retainer of \$100,000 a year, has already aroused controversy.

"He is one of the bestknown and most articulate presidential advisers this country has ever seen," said Roone Arledge, presi-



George Stephanopoulos: 'l feel like I won the lottery

dent of ABC News. "His vast knowledge of Wash-ington politics and policy will be an enormous asset." The deal would appear to

leave the brand-new millionaire with little time for his plan to help the Labour Party win the next General Election after he formally takes his leave of the White

Fresh-faced youths with greater physiques than

lesbians achieve wholeness through mutual hair-

combing and warm humour. Genre pieces abound.

acting ability perform lachrymose melodrama. Plucky

was educated at Oxford, has already put his innercity Washington apartment on the market to prepare for his move to New York to join the long line of former political insiders who are heading for a new life in

But the question of whether be tells all is already causing a stir, with the Wall Street Journal claiming yesterday that his ABC-TV job created "a question of journalistic

"Mr Stephanopoulos's knowledge of events inside the current White House puts his fellow journalists at ABC in an untenable position," said an article on the editorial page of the

"Either they ask him about things he likely won't talk about, or they stifle their journalistic instincts and don't ask questions that should be

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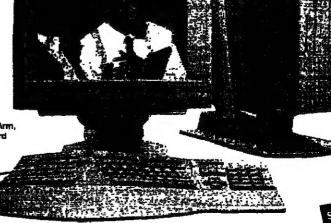
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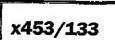


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Gay theatre is dead Arts G2 page 12

This judgment

has made a significant advance in providing for

the safety of

It is hoped that

administer the laws of the sport will

remember the judge's words that the referee

players under

Terry Lee, solicitor

his control a

preventive

mantle'

players, particularly young players.

those who control and

owes the

Schools and rugby officials ponder landmark ruling

Rugby referee pays for injury

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

UGBY Union officials and school heads were last night considering the implications of a Court of Appeal ruling that a referee was to blame for spinal injuries that conemned a 17-year-old player to a wheelchair for life. The High Court made legal

history last April when it beld that referee Michael Nolan was liable for the injuries to Ben Smoldon, former captain of Sutton Coldfield

Mr Nolan appealed but three judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, upheld Mr Justice Curtis's decision that he had fallen below the standards of a reasonably competent refer-ee when controlling the scrummages during the match in which Mr Smoldon broke his neck.

The judges rejected as "un-sustainable" an argument of duty on the part of the offithat Mr Smoldon, now aged cial whose duty it was to 22, consented to the risk of injury by voluntarily playing a tough, highly physical game



Michael Nolan, who 'fell below the standards of a reasonably competent referee' in the match which left Ben Smoldon confined to a wheelchair for life

consented to the ordinary in-cidents of a game of rugby, but could not possibly be said Smoldon was in court yester-day. Mr Smoldon's solicitor, Terry Lee, said: "This judgment has made a significant advance in providing for the safety of players, particularly young players. It is hoped that those who control and apply the rules.
Mr Nolan's insurers are to that those who control and Mr Nolan, 54, an army caadminister the laws of the det force administrator from referee school matches and stressed that his decision was said Lord Bingham, sitting sport will remember the Tamworth, Staffs, had chaljudge's words that the referee lenged Mr Justice Curtis's schools to get insurance. John the case, particularly the un- Sir Brian Neill. Lord Bingconsider seeking leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Mr Smoldon has claimed £1 mil-

Neither Mr Nolan nor Mr owes the players under his ruling that he did not exercise | Sutton, general secretary of acceptable number of col· ham said Mr Smoldon's Smoldon was in court yester control a 'preventive mantle'. reasonable care and skill in the Secondary Heads Associal lapsed scrums — between 18 capacity for independent and day. Mr Smoldon's solicitor, Let us hope that this protection, said after the ruling that and 24 — that were allowed to active life had been "blighted". tive mantle is spread to reduce and eradicate the incidence of young people suffering severe spinal injuries while playing rugby."
Mr Nolan, 54, an army ca-

the under-19s colts match in October 1991 between Sutton Trent. The case provoked fears that it would deter

heads would want to ensure that all matches were con-Coldfield and Burton on troiled in future by qualified

But Lord Bingham said that

"He did not intend to open the door to a pletborn of claims by players against ref-erees, and it would be deplor-

in the flower of his youth Mr Nohm was backed by the Rugby Football Union. A spokesman for its insurers' solicitors, Davies Arnold Cooper, said: "The scope of potential liability for sporting

Galleries and museums defeat Sharon Stone in making hearts throb

Maey Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

OLL over Sharon Stone, here's something to make the heart beat faster and the pulses race: the

in Basic Instinct, Chelsea play Newcastle, video games, or even, astonishingly, watching Kenneth Clarke's Budget speech.
MAG, the London based

British Dental Museum.

An experiment has proved scientifically that visiting guinea pig, tackled up to a heart rate in direct response whole room shakes and shud-

its response to stimuli like Ms Stone and Mr Clarke. The physical activity of visiting seums produced an average heart best of 87, compared to a sedentary television

ously exciting, more exciting | strapped to his chest, record | play or a murder on film.
than watching Sharon Stone | ing his normal heart rate and | The X-certificate experience of the museums world is undoubtedly the Natural History Museum, specifically the Earthquake Experience in its new Earth Galleries, a re-creation of a small Japanese museums is almost danger- portable heart-rate monitor to to an exotic museum dis- ders violently around the

More than the earth moved. | cient erotic carving at the Nothing, not Ms Stone's missing underpinnings, not Sega video games, not even the shooting of lan Beale on East-enders, could compete: the earthquake provoked a heartbeat rise of 28, compared with a rise of 10 for Basic Instinct. dow Man, the ancient body Chelsea v Newcastle, at nine found in a bog, at the British points, were not in the same

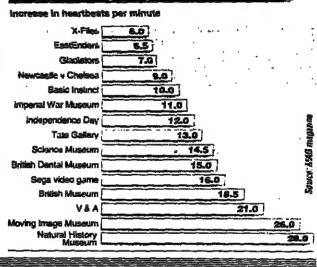
league.
The surprise thriller though fear may have been the key — was the British Dental Association museum. which scored 13, the same as

the Tate Gallery. The Museum of the Moving Image was parting on the heels of the Natural History, scoring 26, followed by the restored Raphael Cartoon gallery at the Victoria and Alboring.

bert at 21 — but even an an-British Museum did better than Ms Stone, scoring 18, The cult TV show The Xfiles is highly regarded as a pulse racer, but watching Scully and Mulder perform an autopsy scored six, while Lin-

Museum, scored 18. Ms Stone can afford to sneer at the Chancellor, howtelevision failed to produce any heart-rate rise

whatsoever. The experiment is de-scribed in the January-FebruWhat makes your pulse beat faster?



Jury in Leah trial fails to agree

THE jury in the trial of Steven Packman, accused of being involved in the supply of ec-stasy which killed Leah Betts, ras dismissed yesterday after alling to reach a verdict.

The six men and six women don, near Basildon, Essex, was dismissed yesterday after failing to reach a verdict.

had deliberated for more than seven hours over two days at Norwich crown court. Mr Justice Kay told the jury: "Nobody has changed their admitted the charge. He will minds from yesterday. It is unrealistic to take a decision now." Leah died after taking taking the ecstasy, which

an ecstasy tablet at her 18th | caused a partial kidney | get this part of it out of the birthday party in Latching | failure. | way before Christmas, but we

ford, Esse The Crown Prosecution Service will decide whether to apply for a retrial on Friday, when Mr Justice Kay will hear submissions from

suade teenagers not to take

Her body could not cope with the water she was

drinking. Her death sparked a medialed campaign against ecstasy, and led her parents to launch a nationwide effort to per-

the drug. Leah's father, Paul Betts, said yesterday: "Of course we wanted this to come to an end here but we will now have to

continue our wait. It is

through it all again in the new year."

The Packman family said in a statement made through de-fence counsel John Cooper. "The prosecution must con-sider what interest will be served by a retrial. Mr Pack-man has always said he is in-nocent of these charges and continues to say he is

lineand.

innocent. "He and his family go into heartrending."

"We thought that at last we could close a chapter here and truth is heard."

Christmas determined that if there is to be another trial the truth is heard."

Show Lolita or I'll quit UK, says Irons

Dan Glaister Arts Correspondent

N JUNE, Jeremy Irons sounded like the model of restraint. "This film is about what happens when a man, who is only attracted to young girls, meets a young girl with no morals. It will probably cause a lot of fuss when it comes out so I suppose I'll keep a low profile

Now, with the film remake One studio executive was of Lolita ready and looking quoted as saying: "Paedophifor a distributor, Mr Irons has lia is a tough sell, and somethreatened to keep a very low how Zanuck's name took profile indeed — by leaving away some of the taint."

Adrian Lyne, director of Nine and A Half Weeks and Fatal Attraction, has had a troubled history even before its

The project lost Hollywood support when Oscar-winning producer Richard Zanuck pulled out before filming began. One studio executive was

the US or Britain. The Illm. comes soon after a tabloid outcry over David Cronen-berg's film of the J G Ballard

novel, Crash. problems is the current moral climate. In the US, the movie pro-vided fodder for the moral

majority and the Republican candidate, Bob Dole, during the US presidential election. In Britain and the Age.

Europe it has come under attack following the Belgian is relevant to the story and not for the sake of stimulating In Britain and the rest of the sex was gratuitous. profile indeed — by leaving the country.

The film was eventually made by the French company anything wrong with the movie," said the 46-year-old actor.

The film was eventually Europe it has come under attack following the Belgian paedophile scandal.

The secondary of the secondary and the rest of the secondary and the secondary and the rest of the secondary and the secondary and the rest of the secondary and the rest of the secondary and the rest of the secondary and the secondary and the rest of the secondary and the secondar

that it will not get a distributor to release it. If it does not
find one, I will leave the
country."

The new film of Lolita by
Adrian Lyne, director of Nine
and A Half Weeks and Fatel

tion. The part of Lolita is
played by 14-year-old American, Dominique Swain,
Filming was completed six
months ago, but the film still
does not have a distributor in
the IIS or Britain. The film

The new film of Lolita is
played by 14-year-old Ameridramed up by Hollywood?
The movie moguls have done
a remake of Lolita — a tale of
twisted love and a man's lust
for a mere child."

The new film, which few commentators have seen, is understood to be more explicit than the 1962 version which ovel Crash.
One reason for the film's and Peter Sellers alongside Mason

ferred, and one year after sur-gery 37 of the 40 children could move the new finger. All be-Sex scenes for the new film have reputedly been shot using an adult double for Lollta. But the film's scriptwriter

Stephen Schiff, denied that This is not a sex film," he

been made better by Simon

Kay and his team of surgeons at St James's university hos-

Mr Kay reported in the Jour-nal of Hand Surgery yesterday that 66 toes in all were trans-

pital in Leeds.

children new grip on life David Evans of the Royal National Orthopaedic

One quarter of all accidents HREE years ago Stacey Carter-Brooks of York at home or work involve hands. There are thought to wouldn't play with other children. When she did, she kept be 50,000 operations to injured hands, and 75,000 "elecone hand concealed: two of her fingers were missing. tive" operations to the hands or upper limbs in Britain Now, at 10, she has five fin-gers on each hand. She is, each year. Yet, Mr Evans said, there were probably 10 to 15 full-time hand surgeons however, missing a second toe on each foot. Stacey is one in the country. He argued that there should be at least of 40 children with congenital or accidental deformities of

hospital.

Using toes as fingers gives

or accidental deformities of one in every hospital, work-the hand whose lives have ing with a surgeon with a strong interest in the art. "We calculate we need at least 100 surgeons working with hands," he said.

Operations to transfer toes to hands can take up to eight hours. Using microscopes, teams have to attack nerves, tendons and blood vessels. Some of the transplanted toes can provide a grip or pinch-ing power to what might be an otherwise useless limb.

lieved their hands were more useful. In no case did the oper-ation undermine the child's ation undermine the child's happiness or confidence. It is not a new technique, but members of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand want to surgery of the Hand wan "The time to get excited prisingly they don't look as about something is when you can prove it works," said expect," Mr Evans said.

Blair tells music press of 'free and frank debate' on Spice Girls

Stuart Millar

WHEN the Spice Girls de-clared themselves the new Thatcherites and de-nounced Tony Blair's haircut. it looked as if the Labour leader's bid for pop respect-ability had failed. But now he has opened a new front in his fight to appeal to the youth generation by making a guest appearance in the Christmas edition of NME.
Observers will be surprised

to learn that the main topic of conversation in the Blair household has been none other than Britain's most popular all-girl act. In an eclectic list of his top 10 tracks of the year — which cynics have suggested was more likely to have been penned by one of his fresh-faced assistants Mr Blair appears to put prin-

ciple before party by includ-ing the Spice Girls hit Say You'll be There. and frank debate in the Blair household as to our favourite Spice Girl,"

in what could be a rehearsal for a Blair government's new year honours list, | in for high praise.

Tony's top 10

THE Ghost of Tom Joad — Bruce Springsteen Three Lions — The Light-ning Seeds featuring David Baddiel and Frank Skinner Don't Look Back in Anger

Ironic — Alanis Morrisette Hallo Spaceboy — David Bowle and the Pet Shop Say You'll be There - Spice

Girls Ready or Not - Pugees A Whiter Shade of Pale -

Annie Lennox Angel - Simply Red Rotterdam - The Beautiful

he rewards the loyalty of other acts with a mention in his top 10. On Oasis' Don't Look Back in Anger, he "Great pop record," he an Oasis song this year.
There has been free and frank dehate in the They've all been very vocal in their support - especially

Noel." Simply Red's Mick Hucknail, another prominent Labour supporter, also comes

No cheer for Hogg on beef ban

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Ewen MacAskill

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OUGLAS Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, failed to win any guarantees about an early lifting of the European union's export ban on British beef when he met fellow agriculture ministers in Brussels

yesterday.

After Mr Hogg gave details of the revised cuil of up to 100,000 extra cattle in silence. there were immediate warn-ings that the ban is unlikely to be relaxed before next sum-mer, after the general election.

lvan Yates, the Irish farms minister chairing the agriculture ministers' council, told BBC radio that a lifting of the han could not be predicted with certainty. He said: "We're talking about midyear before perhaps the full inspection process could be complete and early decisions." complete and early decisions could be made around the

mid-year of 1997."
Earlier Mr Hogg claimed
Britain had met four of the five conditions laid down at the Florence summit and should be treated sympatheti-cally and rapidly by the EU.

Other member states wel-comed Britain's climbdown.

But it is clear that the process of giving British herds a clean bill of health will be ponderous, with the Government required to produce proposals which will be studied before clearance by EU scientific and veterinary committees, followed by inspections to

check on the operation of the cull. Other agriculture minis-ters expressed reservations about how quickly the han might be lifted, with Jozias Van Aartsen, the Dutch agri-culture minister, who will chair ministerial meetings in the new year, saying he anticipated talks continuing throughout the six months of his country's presidency.
Franz Fischler, the agricul

ture commissioner, told the French newspaper Le Monde in an interview: "It is clear that serious mistakes have been committed in Great Brit-ain. These mistakes are not so much in the health measures ... but in the way they have been carried out and

In the Commons, John Major admitted he could not provide a timetable for lifting of the beef ben, after Tony Blair reminded him that he had said at the Florence sum-mit in June it would be lifted by November, and had failed

by November, and had failed to deliver.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, had to intervene during noisy exchanges when Mr Major used "unparliamentary" language to accuse Mr Blair of "misleading" the Commons. He then accused the Labour leader of "misunderstanding" the beef crisis.

Mr Major said: "The beef han will be lifted by our Europaper. ban will be lifted by our Euro-pean pariners and I cannot tell you precisely by what date that will be. I will be seeking the lifting of the ban progressively as soon as



The Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, (left), during a break in talks with fellow farm ministers in Brussels yesterday

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Heseltine fails to back up claims of Labour leaks culture in Whitehall

THE deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine, has been unable to substantiate claims that a spate of White-hall leaks were the result of politically-motivated Labour

candidates, had disclosed damaging documents in what he called a "leak culture" in Whitehall. He told the Commons public service commit-tee that he had prepared a "folder of the leaks" which he promised to pass to the MPs. The Guardian has learned supporters in the Civil Service.

Mr Heseltine told MPs last sent to the committee yesterweek that a network of civil servants, including Labour the damage of the committee report sent to the committee yesterday—a week after Mr Heseltine made his allegations—

says there is no evidence to I future support his claims. It also suggests that despite Mr He-seltine's references to a new leak culture in the Civil Service, there has been no more quoted as having sought a leaks from Whitehall in nomination as a Labour recent weeks than there were in the mid-1980s.

Mr Heseltine indicated last week that his folder included newspaper reports of a leaked Treasury document on the

future of the welfare state which also included the possibility of privatising roads. A member of the Treasury unit which wrote the report was The Cabinet Office report

says that the official - Helen Goodman, who later with-drew her candidature — had been cleared of any involve-

ment in the leak, John Pres cott. Labour's deputy leader last night reminded Mr Hesel tine that he had not replied to a challenge to name names and place his evidence immediately into the public

Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary and head of the Civil Service will appear be-fore the public service com-

Straw backs stalker bill

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

ABOUR denied last night that it would do anything to delay the speedy progress of legislation through the Commons to tackle stelling.

tackle stalking.
The Protection From Harasament Bill is expected to complete its Commons stages today, move on to the Lords and become law early

in the new year.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, rejected reports that he would renege on a promise to help speed the bill through. At the start of yesterday's second reading debate, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, said he was "mystified" that Labour had "mystifled" that Labour had put down amendments which would "significantly weaken the effect" of the bill. Mr Straw replied: "We support this measure, although we wish to see it improved in committee."

An attempt by a Tory back-bencher to bring back caning in schools failed last night to pass its first Commons

pass its first Commons

burdle.

James Pawsey (Rugby and Kenilworth) withdrew his amendent to the Government's Education Bill after it became clear it would not be passed by the Commons com-mittee examining through the measure. He said later he would bring back the amendment when the bill comes be-fore the full House for its

'Old Labour' MEP irks leadership

Stephen Bates on fierce party critic who is not just a

far-left stereotype

UGH Kerr, the 52-year-old Labour MEP now threatened with dese-lection, has been an irritant to the party leadership ever since he was elected to the European Parliament in 1994, by consulting the full following many years as a councillor at Harlow in He also opposed Labour's

He is an almost archetypal Old Labour figure — a hithough almost all of the bearded, middle-class, former lecturer in social policy at constituencies have Tory what is now North London

University.
The language he has used to attack the Labour leadership has been robust and unreconstructed too. Tony Blair - described ironically as the Great Leader — is frequently attacked for what he is doing to the party, but so are figures like Clare Short (for her "hatchet job" on Liz Davies, the Islington councillor pre-vented from being a parlia-mentary candidate) and

Robin Cook. "Is there no depth to which

chauvinism?"
The issues have been keystone ones, such as opposition

He also opposed Labour's consultation process on the party manifesto.

MPs, he won the European election for the Essex West and Hertfordshire East seat by a wafer-thin margin of 3,067 votes.

LSE and Essex University-educated, admits he used to be a member of the Trotskyite International Socialists but

reconstructed old Trot that opponents like to claim. He is articulate and witty, a fan of opera and classical music, a director of Harlow Playhouse, the Labour leadership will not stoop in its pursuit of power?" he asked in a letter to the Guardian last May.

"Whatever happened to the notion that political parties are meant to educate and lead public opinion and not reflect reaction, prejudice and

to the reform of Clause 4. His local party at Harlow was criticised by Labour head-quarters as "political dino-saurs" for voting against the change of the constitution on a show of hands rather than

Mr Kerr, Scots-born but

has also been a Labour Party member since 1959. But he is not simply the un-

Tory candidate and lobbyist faces US drink-drive charge

David Hencke Westminster Corre

LAMBOYANT black Tory candidate and lobbyist Derek Laud, could be facing prison rather than standing for Parliament next May, following drink-driving charges being brought against him in the US.

The fox-hunting, Monday Club member who is challeng-ing Bernic Grant for the safe Labour seat of Tottenham in north London, has been asked to appear before East Hampton Town justice court in Long sland on January 30 to answer charges of driving while in-toxicated, driving while unli-censed and failing to keep to the right side of the road. The maximum sentence is one

year's imprisonment.
The charges follow an accident at 3am last August when a car said to be driven by Mr Laud was in collision with another car which led to four you are black they won't trust people being taken to hospi-

tal. According to the East Hampton Star, the local Long Island newspaper, Mr Laud was arrested and not released until he posted \$1,000 bail. Mr Laud, who runs the politi ical division of Ludgate Laud

ical division of Ludgate Laud, the lobbying company, advised Premier Club chairman, John Beckwith in his failed bid for Ministry of Defence homes this year. His company's consultants include Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey.
Mr Laud is also a close friend of former Tory whip. Michael Brown, and of Chris-tine and Neil Hamilton, MP

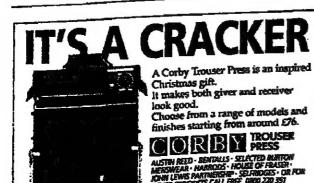
the latter under investigation

for the "cash for questions"

Mr Laud has been desperate to get a seat. A Tory sup-porter for 20 years, he said recently: "I am coming to the end of my tether with this party. I believe that everyone should be selected on merit, but they blatantly aren't. You can have a brilliant CV but if

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PREPARTER

Israelis and **Arafat await** 'the explosion'

A bloody clash between the peace 'partners' seems certain. Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem writes

bloody confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians is inevitable, despite Binyamin Netanyahu's public commitment to pursue

At closed-door briefings in the Israeli prime minister's office and among Yasser's Arafat's entourage, officials agree it is not whether but when the clash takes place.

"We're sitting on a powder keg," said an Israeli official. "There is no way to prevent the big explosion." In Gaza, a top adviser to Mr Arafat said: "We're waiting for the match that will ignite the fire. It can happen any minute, any hour, any day. All it takes is one provocation by Netanyahu." In 1987 a traffic accident in

which four Arab labourers were crushed to death by an Israeli lorry sparked off wide-spread riots that developed into the intifada.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip once again represent a potential tinderbox. If anything the political climate among the Palestinians is

Since Mr Netanyahu's election, Israel's relationship with its Palestinian neighbours has deteriorated to a point that would have been inconceivable six months ago.

Mr Netanyahu's Likud Party believes that the West Bank, which it refers to by its biblical names of Judea and Samaria, is an integral part of Israel. The Oslo peace pact, the party stalwarts argue, will eventually terminate Israel's presence in the West Bank and lead to the creation of another hostile Arab neighbour, called Palestine.

In recent months there have been almost daily confrontations between Jews and Arabs in the fields and villages away from the big urban centres of the West Bank. In some instances Mr Arafat's ministers have personally led protest marches against Isra-el's policies, or lain down in front of bulldozers preparing

Earlier this week, the Speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, Ahmed Qreia, responded to the Israeli government's decision to strengthen Jewish settlements by warning: "Never

Mr Qreia said the Palestin-ians would not hesitate to de-mand the return of former Arab cities like Haifa, Jaffa and Safed if the stalemate

Palestinian officials com-plain most about the snaillike progress of the talks on Hebron. For six months is-raeli and Palestinian negotiators have been unable to reach an agreement that will allow the Israeli army to leave the city.

Mr Netanyahu's closest advisers say he missed an opportu-nity to ditch the Oslo deal after September's bloody clashes over the opening of the Hasmonean tunnel in Jerusalem.

At last Friday's cabinet meeting in Jerusalem the head of Israel's Shin Bet secu-

rity force, Ami Ayalon, reported that Mr Arafat and his Palestinian Authority were preparing to unleash a wave of violence. That evening. Israel television revealed that Mr Netanyahu had angrily rejected Admiral Ayalon's warning that the government's policies were set on a collision course.

Adm Ayalon's report fol-lowed leaks by top Israeli offi-cials that the Palestinian police had purchased anti-tank missiles, and that Mr Arafat

'We're sitting on a powder keg. There's no way to prevent the blast'

ground bunker for himself in Gaza City. Palestinian officials claim that these leaks were intended to prepare the Israeli public for an "all-out war" against the Palestinians.

On Friday, the Palestinians have called for a massive public demonstration in Arab Israel's decision to build 132 Jewish homes in the Arab enclave of Ras al Amoud. The Palestinians have been

encouraged by growing inter-national pressure on Mr Ne-tanyabu that included an appeal from three former United States secretaries of state, sion to expand settlements.
President Bill Clinton

stepped up the pressure when he described Israel's settlement policy as an obstacle to agreement on Israel's with-drawal from Hebron.

Palestinian fears for peace were reflected in last Saturday's Al Ayam newspaper the official mouthpiece of the Palestinian Authority. Its verhas the peace process been in dict: "Oslo died the day such a critical situation." Netanyahu was elected."



"I'm about as insecure as you are. I'm exactly 39 steps to use one of my favourite authors — from a doubledecker bus, same as you." Felix Dennis

G2 cover story

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 1 January 1997 Mortgage Rate will increase to 7.25% per annum for both existing and new borrowers.

The 100% Mortgage Rate will also increase to 7.75% per annum, along with the Royal Premier Mortgage Rate to 6.50%, with effect from this date.

Existing arrangements apply for Centralised Mortgage Services customers.



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Finn wins Santa war by a beard

845 2411

Jon Henley in Rovaniemi. Finland

ORWAY is con-vinced he's Norwegian.
"We've carried
out extensive investigations, and there can be no doubt — he was born here," said Kjersti Engen of the Norwegian Tourist Board. "It's because of Spitsbergen, you see. There's a direct link to

the North Pole."

Try telling that to the Swedes. "Of course he lives here — it's a well-known, internationally document-ed fact," said Lars Lilje-gren, his Swedish business manager. "He gets 150,000

we market him in Japan."

Greenland begs to differ: it receives grants from the Danish government to pro-mote itself as his only home. Even the Icelanders get proprietorial about him, although they are hampered by an ancient Icelandic legend which says he comes in 13 incarnations, all with unpro-

But Arto Tuominen thinks they are all wrong. In the Great Nordic Santa War — waged with unlikely passion and even unlikelier sums of money by marketing men, foreign minis-tries, tourist boards. Santa villages and Santa post offices in five quiet and peace-loving countries — a clear victor has emerged. "Of course, it is a very

competitive sector these days," said Mr Tuominen, managing director of Santa Claus Finland International Ltd. "But I think we can say that the number one position of the world's

ened substantially. You only have to look at the

figures."
Santa's main post office in the small town of Rovan-iemi, the capital of Finnish Lapland, has received 700,000 letters this year. Mr Tuominen said — 300,000 more than last year, and they are still com-ing in at between 20,000 and 30,000 a day.
"We should hit a million

by the end of the year," he said. "That'll be about twice as many as Norway, Sweden and Greenland combined. And it's not as if we so round the world teli-ing people Santa lives in Finland — they just seem to know." Finland's Santa also gets

almost twice as many visi-tors as his nearest rival in Drobak, outside Oslo. This year's celebrity

guests — not too old to tell Santa what they really, really want — were the teen pop idols the Spice Girls. But each year more than 400,000 others make the pilgrimage to his Arctic Circle



Hot line to the North Pole: There's only one Santa, says the favourite in Rovaniemi

shops, restaurants and reindeer-driving school or head into the frozen blue wilderness on a husky-dog safari.

On the busiest late-December weekends, up to 14 charter flights a day land at Rovaniemi airport. "We don't have a demand prob-

serious supply problem. This week, the man at the centre of it all sat in a new and larger office, complete with viewing platform for timid guests, digital cam-

era for instant sat-on-the-iap pictures, video-conferencing facilities and a volume titled A Guide to the World's Chimneys. He was not interested in the Nordic Santa War.

"You people only ever want the behind-the-mask stuff, and it's humbug," he said. In between a bonious to Antoine from Paris, a kalimera to Constantin from Greece, and a lot of yo-hohoing to 150 British tour-ists on a five-day Winter Wonderland-Search for Santa package with

"Look, there's only one Santa, he's the one in children's hearts. It's not my business to go around breaking children's

His postbag made his point. Many letters were a forthright demand for the

lem here." Mr Tuominen goodies. Warren, aged six, said. "What we have is a from Leytonstone, listed 38 ing Ken, a Robocop car, skates (size 13) and a laptor

computer. But Natty, from Thai-land, wanted her 14 sick cats to get better. Yoshiko from Japan implored: "Please listen! I'm failing in love now, but he thinks of me as just a friend. Sonta

Katerina from Moscow dear Father Frost!", while Class IC from Sofia, Bul-garia, said Sauta Claus

Outside, stamping their feet in the snow to keep warm in -16C, the crowds of excited children were not interested in supply and

demand.
Matthew Weeks, aged
nine, from Welwyn, spoke
for them. This one, he said,
was real. You could tell because he lived so far away,



Snow hits the hot asphalt as a construction crew pave a parking lot in Kokomo, Indiana, causing clouds of steam

News in brief Saddam's son

on television

President Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday, who was shot and wounded last week, appeared on Iraqi television yesterday speaking at ease with a Qatari envoy and a reporter from the official news agency. Flanked by bouquets, Uday was covered with a blanket and there were no bandages on his face. — Reuter.

Border tightened The biggest group of defectors to flee North Korea gave a first news conference in Seoul

yesterday saying the impover-ished country had nearly tripled guards along its borders with China and Russia to stop people escaping. — Reuter. Lebed wins suit

The ousted Russian security chief, Alexander Lebed, won his libel suit in Moscow yesterday against the interior minister, Anatoly Kulikov, who had accused him of plan-ning a coup, and was awarded the symbolic damages he sought a single rouble.—AP.

Shuttle on beach Two large chunks of the space shuttle Challenger washed up on the Florida shore yester-day nearly 11 years after it exploded, killing all seven crew members.— AP.

Cypriot doubts

A British proposal for ending the stalemate between Greeks and Turks on divided Cyprus did not go far enough to justify direct talks between the rival communities, Cyprus said yesterday. - Reuter.

Air crash toli 17

Seventeen people were killed when a military plane crashed while taking off from an airport near the city of vesterday. — Reuter

Turkey steps up mafia inquiry

Chris Muttall in Ankara

TURKEY'S president, Suleyman Demirel, has ordered the acceleration of an official investigation into a case linking the state with organised crime, which is rapidly becoming the big-gest political scandal in the history of the republic.

The media, helped by leaked documents, have driven the inquiry with daily revelations — described by the opposition as like 100 Watergates — surrounding a car crash.

The lorry driver who pulled out in front of a Mercedes travelling at an estimated 135mph near the town of Susurluk on November 3 is on trial for careless driving. But many Turks see him as a national bero for what he unwittingly belped uncover.

The car was ripped open as it slid under the lorry, killing

ing a senior politician. A where he was being held for directed by senior police were cache of guns, silencers and heroin smuggling. traces of cocaine, were found. The state was caught in flagrante delicto with orga-nised crime.

Last week a prosecutor asked the justice ministry to lift the parliamentary immunity of Mehmet Agar, who was forced to resign as

'Murderers are working for the state'

interior minister within days of the accident.

A police report said he had signed a gun licence found on the body of the dead gangster, Abdullah Catli. Mr Agar says

the signature is a fake.

heroin smuggling.
According to leaked intellience documents, he worked for the government, killing leftwing extremists and Kurdpart in a falled coup in Azer-

ish separatists and taking haijan in 1994. A diplomatic passport and false indentity cards were found in the car. He was given a virtual state

President Demirel wrote to the PM

Catli was wanted for the torture and murder of seven leftwing students in 1978 and

funeral, his coffin draped in flag. The deputy prime minis-ter, Tansu Ciller, caused a furore with her valediction

We will always respectfully

remember those who fire bul-

ets or suffer wounds in the

name of this country." The opposition leader, Mesut Yilmaz, who was

litical corruption. The new interior minister. Meral Aksener, has suspended the Istanbul police chief, his deputy, the head of special operations and three police officers during an in-

vestigation. The three officers allegedly confessed to killing a casino boss in July. They were merely reassigned as bodyguards to the MP who survived the car crash. He is Sedat Bucak, a Kurd-

and drug smuggling "Murderers are working

for the state," Mr Demirel told the prime minister in a confidential letter. He has

called a summit of party lead-

ers on Sunday to discuss po-

ish warlord who receives £750,000 a month from the government to fight rival Kurdish separatists. Human rights activists say gangsters and Kurdish tribal chiefs con-trolled by the state could be it slid under the lorry, killing was implicated in the 1981 as a police academy chairman and a wanted gangster and his moll, and seriously injure scape from a Swiss prison was implicated in the 1981 as punched by a rightwing nationalist for pursuing the Susurluk affair, has supplied by the state could be Susurluk affair, has supplied evidence that up to 120 people killings since 1992.

Saudis bar Britons from leaving

Diplomatic Editor

AUDI ARABIA is pre-venting at least 20 Brit-ons, from leaving the country because of an investigation into the murder of an Australian nurse at a Dhah-

ran hospital. The Britons, along with some 40 other Westerners, in-cluding Canadians, Austrabeen questioned by Saudi police.

But the Britons have not had any assistance from the Foreign Office: the British consul in Riyadh, Tim Lamb, was yesterday denied entry to the hospital after his Cana-dian and Australian counter-

The Foreign Office said it was looking into the case. "What concerns us is that lians and Americans, are being denied their passports by the authorities, sources at the King Fahd military hospi-

tal said last night. Many have | refusing to release our passports. The chances of getting on another flight before Christmas are nil.

The British authorities should be questioning why people are being held and why they're not being eliminated from investigation."

Yvonne Gilford, aged 56, was found dead in suspicious circumstances. Australian

Hospital employees were told last night that they were not to walk outside the compound after sundown, for fear the killer is still at large. A Filipina nurse was stabbed to death in 1994 but that case was never solved.

Saudi Arabia is sensitive about dealing with Western expatriates because of the strict application of Islamic law. Relations with Britain were scarred in the late 1970s over the case of Helen Smith, a British nurse who was killed during a party in

miracle. wanted nothing more than "to play snowballs together.

should know he was "the biggest magic for us, be-cause you make us kind".

Court heeds

Pope's plea

Richard Yhomes in Washington

HE United States supreme court yester-day ordered a last minute stay of execution for a convicted Virginia murderer after a worldwide campaign for clemency led by the Pope. Virginia's governor, George Allen, had earlier dismissed

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what he called "a write-in by the Pope", and resterated his determination to punish "violent, premeditated, heinously vile crimes" by Joseph O'Dell, who was convicted of rape and murder,

lethal injection last night. But the supreme court said in a short statement that the execution should be delayed, pending a review of O'Dell's appeal, which presented new DNA-based evidence that blood on his clothes did not match the blood of the victim, a 44-year-old woman who was raped and killed in February 1985.

Legal experts said that a decision on O'Deli's case was now unlikely to be finalised

efore the New Year. Mr Allen continued to insist yesterday that even the Pope had no sway over his determination to proceed with the execution, although he said that he would walt for

clearer guidance from the supreme court justices. I give just as much attention to people who don't have the Pope writing in as somebody who does have the Pope writing in," Mr Allen had told a press conference held before the supreme court's intervention.

Front-page coverage of the impending execution in Italy prompted the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, to respond yesterday with a letter to Mr Allen seeking a

Interviews with Italian journalists in which O'Dell protested his innocence — as well as asking for a sample of his sperm to be frozen ahead of the execution — have also fuelled interest in the case. Linda Thurston, director of

Amnesty International's pro-gramme to abolish the death penalty, said: "We don't know why the Vatican decided to intervene in this case, but it certainly helps. The court is supposed to be impartial, but politics inevitably plays a part."

But Amnesty was con-cerned that the international movement to save O'Dell— which was orchestrated by Virginia pressure groups over the internet — should not pick and choose individual cases, given that 3,000 people are on death row

The Vatican said the pontiff's plea on behalf of O'Dell was a simple attempt to save a life, but the wider impact on the world's estimated 1 billion Catholics is potentially enormous, pressure groups

In his annual message of peace, released ahead of delivery on January 1, the Pope called yesterday for a new climate of forgiveness.

Although his remarks addressed the need to prevent worldwide conflicts, antideath penalty campuigners seized on his comments as an implicit criticism of state-

An alternative power structure has emerged in poverty stricken Western Siberia to co-ordinate protests and put pressure on Moscow. **James Meek** reports from the mining town of Prokopyevsk, where workers have not been paid for at least six months

Court

heeds

Pope's

plea



A galloping programme of pit closures has sucked Prokopyevsk and its people dry

'Town of slaves' seeks salvation France's PM publishes and promises to do

DON'T like coming here," said Sergei as the car dipped into the hollows of the town, and dark hunched figures in shabby coats lumbered between embankments of snow like Lowry figures on

of slaves."
If Sergei, making a good liv-ing as a black-market metals trader and paying taxes only to the mob, is troubled by anything, it should be by the town of Prokopyevsk. While Russia's new rich has grown, the mining community of a quarter of a million people has been abandoned to fend for itself in the frozen expanse of Siberia amid ruthless and chaotic spending cuts and pit closures.

But its desperate, unpaid cit-izens are not going quietly. In a move reminiscent of the creation of workers' and soldiers' soviets which preceded the 1917 revolution, they have set up a "salvation committee" to co-ordinate protests and take the initiative from the ineffectual local authorities.
'it's like Lenin said: if the

authorities can't govern in a new way, and the masses do not want to live in the old way, a third force appears," said Valery Zuvev, aged 42, a mine electrician who heads the salvation committee.

The committee movement, which began in September, has spread to other towns in the Kuzbass region. There have been calls to buy weapons and Moscow is wor ried. Unlike the strikes by un-paid miners and teachers, the committees unite workers from all sectors.
"If they drive you into a

News in brief

marched through the Greek capital yesterday be-

fore parliament began debat-ing the government's auster-

ity budget, writes Helena

Smith in Athens. Civil servants, doctors and

joining strikes by Greek sea-

sion for work to begin on the

construction of a dam that critics say will flood thou-

sands of acres of rain forest

The dam in Sarawak state,

which will be run by Bakun

Hydrolectric Corporation, is

expected to generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity, and

is scheduled to start operat-

ing on October 31, 2002.

on Borneo Island.

men and diplomats.

tenchers walked off the job, proclaimed "holy war"

ALAYSIA'S government halted in June by the High Court following a petition

negawatts of electricity, and sacheduled to start operating on October 31, 2002.

Construction work was cover an area the size of Singapore. About 9,500 natives from tribes that have lived in the area for centuries will be forced to leave. — AP.

The protests plunged the tion outside parliament



Unpaid Siberian miners are turning to new 'salvation committees' instead of ineffective strikes

corner, if your children are | barter, hoarded summer vege hungry, if the constitution isn't respected, the only thing is to demand the government be changed," said Mr Zuyev. "If you can't achieve that efully, you do it by force." The government's failure to shops have goods but no buycollect taxes, the chronic chain of debt between mines, railways and metal and has sucked Prokopyevsk dry. Teachers, doctors and local government officials have not been paid since May or June. Pensions have not been paid

to Athens with a demonstra-

travened environmental laws.

Environmental groups

including Friends of the

Earth have argued that it could destroy some species of

The reservoir formed will

cover an area the size of Sin-

plants and animals.

tables and loans. Founded in 1931, the town is crumbling. Some of the buds of early capitalism, the ubiqui-tous kiosks, have closed for lack of customers. The few ers. On the main street, women bundled up in shabby costs and headscarves rock to

power plants, and a galloping and fro in the cold, offering programme of pit closures, sunflower seeds for sale. "I think there will be an end sometime", said Valery, a miner aged 42. "There will be since August. People live by the creation of the salvation | nists is ambivalent.

Bracing themselves for a said a cotton grower guarding showdown with the governariosation a roadblock outside Larissa.

their mother's body

back to life. But after 14

days of court hearings, Moshe and Rachel Beeri agreed yesterday to mum-

Esther Beeri died two

ment, the farmers announced | where the revolt is being co-

they would bring their self ordinated. "We wouldn't be proclaimed "holy war" able to face our families if we

against the tax-heavy budget returned to our villages

Borneo dam given go-ahead | Mother gets mummy treatment

despite risk to environment as Israel bars deep-freeze

company to rid itself of the financial burden of maintaining the town's housing stock and its central-heating system, by transferring them to the local authority.

No one worked out how, with winter closing in, the mayor was to maintain and heat tens of thousands of state flats. He begged for govern-Temperatures in the Kuz-bass can reach -50C. "The boilers weren't ready for winter," said Mr Zuyev. "In our conditions it means death. We

demonstrated, we blocked the railways and the roads. What can you do when your constitutional right to life is violated?' Alexander Prokudin, Prokopyevsk's acting mayor, said the salvation committee

had made Moscow take notice of the area's plight — proved last week when the deputy prime minister, Vladimir Potanin, paid a flying visit. Even Western advisers who have spent years prodding the Russian government to restructure the coal industry and close loss-making pits are disturbed. "The restructuring in the past five years has been massive, faster than in any other country," said one. "But it's not as socially res-

ponsible as it should be." The Kuzbass - once the seat of militant support for Boris Yeltsin — has turned into a communist stronghold. It voted overwhelmingly for the Communist Party candidate, Gennady Zyuganov, in presidential elections this m explosion."

year. Yet Prokopyevsk's
The crisis that prompted relationship with the Commu-

Farmers say the budget, an

effort to cut the deficit linked

to the planned European single currency, expected too many

have seen their disposable in-

it was impossible in Israel

"They were very sad,"

their attorney, Nachshon Fisher, said. "They

Fisher, said. "They accepted this only because

there was no other choice."

and health ministry oppose

The Israeli burial society

The blockade, which has comes drop in recent years.

THEY had hoped to freeze | yesterday — after realising

until the day medical tech-nology could bring her "They were very sa

weeks ago of natural causes, aged 70. Her children proposed to munmify her — a move approved by the Tel Aviv district court in and wrapped in thick nylon before burial. — AP.

Nina Ostanina, is a Communist and a member of the town salvation committee. But she is reluctant to accept that local coal-industry execu-tives are treating their workers as contemptuously as the government in Moscow. She opposes strikes and sees the salvation committees mainly as a way to force the region's despotic Yeltsin-appointed governor, Mikhail Kislyuk, to hold local elections.

The people of Prokopyevsk feel that their lives are threatened, and are struggling to understand why. One salvation committee member, Oleg Khronin, a hospital therapist, digs into his briefcase to produce a document purporting to be a secret speech by the United States president, Bill Clinton, in which he outlines plans for world domination, including the destruction of the Russian coal industry.

there's nothing for us young people to do here," said Oxana, an office worker aged 20, who has not been paid since the started her table to the same and the same

she started her job. "If there was something to lose here it would be sad. But as it is . . . I

ary 16 and sail via the Cape of

Good Hope, the East of Aus-

secretly of the plans on

just want to get out."

"We've demanded and demanded and our demands have not been fulfilled," said Mr Khronin "Now we are preparing political demands, to bring to an end this preda-tory Yeltsin regime. If they prime minister.

don't listen, maybe we'll have to resort to weapons." Yet there is wariness of bloodshed. Nine young men have already returned to Prokopyevsk in zinc coffins from Chechenia. Younger people of unpopularity." feel the town is doomed and Mr Juppé went to the seasee the best chance in escape.
"The town is dying —

arrogant technocrat.
"I am not as dry and I am more sensitive than the newspapers make me out. I

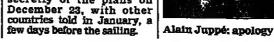
ference ... I am hurt by a programmes, saying he considers unemployment

Strikers bring Athens to a halt in austerity budget protest | Nuclear cargo "my cross". The book was followed up HOUSANDS of strikers country further into crisis as marched through the it entered its third week of a ment's got to understand that age to the economy, with farmers' rail and road farmers' rail and road of through the farmers' rail and road of through the farmers' rail and road of through the farmers' rail and road of throughout the holidays."

Confident through the country further into crisis as tomorrow. "The government age to the economy, with losses of more than losses of more CONFIDENTIAL briefing papers giving details of the sailing dates and shipment routes of high-level

nuclear waste from France to Japan have been leaked to Greenpeace, writes Paul his cross but a book is not The papers show that the British ship the Pacific Teal going to change anything." will leave Cherbourg on Janu-

tralia and the South Pacific to Mutsu Ogawara in Japan. France had intended to keep the route and date secret to avoid demonstrations and possible terrorism. Several countries have banned the ship carrying glassified waste from entering their territorial waters, and for that reason it avoids the Panama Canal. The French government memo to its embassies sug-gests states involved in the ship's routing should be told



German Speaker accused of sleaze

Süssmuth 'used official jets for private pleasure'

lan Traynor in Bonn

ERMANY'S parliamentary speaker, Rita Sissmuth, struggled to contain the fallout from embarrassing sleaze allegations yesterday as taxpayers, the media and the opposition demanded answers to claims that she used official transport for her

The Bonn prosecutor's office confirmed that it was investigating allegations that the most prominent woman in German politics had repeatedly exploited the avail-ability of Luftwaffe jets for government and state funcionaries to visit her daughter

Through her spokesman, Mrs Süssmuth insisted she had never used the facility for private purposes and an-nounced legal action against the Bild am Sonntag newspaper, the first to report the

allegations.
Its editor responded sanguinely to the threat, and Dieter Lau, vice-president of the German taxpayers' federation, who is leading the allegations against Mrs Süss-muth, said he was confident that his information was

Bild quoted a Zürich airport employee as saying: 'Mrs Sussmuth arrives here often to visit her daughter who lives in Switzerland. She comes on a Bundeswehr [armed forces] plane 90 per cent of the time."

Five years ago Mrs Suss-muth's husband had to pay a £2,000 fine to halt court pro-ceedings after it became known that he had used an official car and chauffeur from the parliamentary pool to take the daughter to Switzerland where she is a stu-



popularity polls and is regarded as the nation's conscience

dent. Mrs Süssmuth, from Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, regularly tops opinion surveys registering politicians' popularity, enjoying a reputation for integrity. Along with the president, Roman Herzog, she is viewed as a kind of conscience of the

As Speaker, she is effec-tively policeman, judge, and jury in issues related to the interests, earnings and conduct of Germany's 672 MPa. Under parliament's code of conduct, which dates from

1986, MPs need not declare their extra-parliamentary earnings publicly, but only confidentially to the Speaker, who has the power to institute confidential hearings and investigations on suspected misconduct.
"Donations" to MPs — as

The daily protest

of group therapy,

SkrBS are finding that a brisk walk after lunch can do wonders for their

country's health. Their daily

mass stroll to protest against government election-rigging

as lent new meaning to the

Last weekend, 250,000 people took part in a demon-

stration in Belgrade — an eighth of the city's popula-

tion. And the habit has spread

The marches are not only

opening cracks in President Slobodan Milosevic's mono-

lithic regime, but are fast be-

coming an alternative life-

style — even group therapy.

For many, the four-mile
walk through Belgrade's city

centre has become routine. They bring their children, their in-laws, their dogs. They

along the route drum their

Committee in Belgrade, said:

Doctors predict beneficial effects for a society which

smokes too much, drinks too

much coffee, and has been in danger of losing its sense of

hope economy, where most of

the workforce is unemployed

or paid a pittance in factories.

ised, and from being incapable of expressing their anger.

are using whistles, shouting

They are breathing freely once again. It's a catharsis."

began on November 18 — the day after rigged local elec-tions. He says it is worth the

"It's symbolic that people

"This is a kind of collective

chological as political."

constitutional".

Julian Borger

opposed to party contribu-tions — need only be declared to the Speaker, and not publicly, if they exceed £4,000 a year from a single donor.
MPs' earnings from speaking or writing engagements need to be declared, again only to the Speaker, once they exceed £12,000 a year.

The Speaker is authorised to investigate MPs' conduct, without disclosing that any inquiry is being carried out. The German military's fleet

of jets and helicopters are available for the use of the chancellor, the president, cab-inet members, the Speaker and parliamentary caucus leaders, but only on official said that the defence ministry checks that all requests for

official transport meet the guidelines. But a defence min-istry spokesman said that requests for official jets are taken on trust provided the official in question, as in Mrs Süssmuth's case, is entitled to the privilege.

She is accused of using offi-

cial jets 11 times to visit Switzerland in the past two years, and also of using the military to ferry her to Holland on holiday.

Three weeks ago, Mrs Süss-muth took an official jet to southern Germany to deliver a university speech on "state reponsibility and private responsibility

Using an official military aircraft on a return trip to Zürich is reckoned to cost £12,000, about 25 times the In 1991, Chancellor Kohl and his wife Hannelore used the privileged air service on an emergency trip to Italy where their son had been injured in a car accident. Mr Kohl paid £28,000 for the private use of the service.

Serbs find it's good to walk

Paul Webster in Paris

WHEN a prime minister slumps in opinion polls, faces internal party revolt and becomes the butt of cartoonists, what can he do except admit that he has made a meas of things and promise to do better in the New Year?

better next year

Some leaders may not agree with the method, but Alain Juppe, the most un-popular French prime minister for nearly 40 years, yesterday released a book which amounts to an apology for his 20 months in power. His term has been marked by street protests, rising unemployment and criticism from within the divided Gaullist-RPR, of to 30 other cities and towns. Students stage walks between the main industrial centres to bind the movement together.

which he is chairman. In his book, called "Between Ourselves", Mr Juppé says that someone has to do the dirty work of

"Only a year and a half ago I went to the prime minister's office full of dynamism, mandated by public opinion which saw me as the ideal prime minister," he writes. "Today I am beating all the records

side to-write the book and consider why pundits saw him as a distant and

ing for the protest movement to die a natural death, he may have a long wait. After war, sanctions and hyper-inflation, am not a monster of indiffeeling of injustice."

Excusing himself for not being a superman, Mr Juppe accepts responsibility for failed job-creation this is more fun than most Serbs have had in years. Sonja Biserko, a human rights activist at the Helsinki in this whole atmosphere of depression, apathy, this pro-test gives people the feeling that something can be done. It's as much social and psy-

by radio and television interviews. But Le Monde yesterday suggested that Mr Juppe was wasting his time. "The electorate may be touched, but it won't make them forget the difficulties of their daily lives," the newspaper said. "Mr Juppé says that unemployment is

and the invalids keep going." Mr Dzeric's three-year-old daughter Milica was waving a marches are a form Yugoslav flag. He also marches with his former wife. He said: "We were already on good terms, but these in Belgrade writes together even more."

. He believes the protests will continue through winter if necessary. "I've already bought my rubber boots and woollen socks." Olga Knezevic, a retired

local government cierk aged 56, said: "It has made life more exciting Everybody is happier, and it has brought Belgrade together." She met her local grocer, Dragan Divac, in the crowd that as-sembles at 3pm each day by the offices of the Zajedno (Together) opposition coali-tion, and they now march

Mr Divac goes to work at 30am, so that he can knock off in time. Asked how long he could keep it up, he nodded

'It's symbolic that people are using whistles, shouting They are breathing shout, blow whistles and honk hooters. Families living freely once again. support on saucepans on It's a catharsis'

> buildings and said: "One day longer than them." A few rows ahead, Lifliana

Tomic marches with her husband and four children. She said: "Whatever happens, they will have something to be proud of when they're older. It will show we are peaceful people. We didn't want the war. It was our government that responsible."

Many demonstrators insist that, although they consider themselves patriots, they are steadfastly anti-war. Yet antiwar protests during the Croatian and Bosnian conflicts purpose in Mr Milosevic's no were tiny in comparison to today's civil rights campaign. Mirjana Bobic-Mojsilovic, a journalist and commentator said one buried factor driving

therapy," said Zarko Korac, a professor of psychology at Belgrade University. "The marches liberate people from fear, which has been internal ised and from heing incape.

The profess is a sense of guilt that more people could have done more to stop the killing.

"People realised they fear, which has been internal ised and from heing incape. should have reacted when he [Milosevic] started war. We didn't have adequate reactions. Everyone feels they have to pay a personal price for that."

• President Milosevic, in his Dragan Dzeric, aged 43, has left his barber shop early to join the marches since they task was to respect the will of the people and enforce the rule of law.

According to the official £15 a day in lost earnings.

"The first few days I was exhausted, but now I've lost shall not rule Serbia. We are some weight, and I feel I could our own masters and we must walk for ever," he said. "I'm resolve our problems within amazed at how the old people our institutions."

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The jury has got it right

The wrong people are in court in the Betts case

should be a retrial of the teenager accused of buying the ecstasy tablet which killed Leah Betts. It is asking the wrong question. It should be asking why it proceeded with the first sevenday trial against the teenager, which ended yesterday with a hung jury. Good for the jury. The prosecution should never have been given the go-ahead in the first place. It is a notorious example of nasty people escaping as the "innocent" are pursued.

The nasty side of the drug scene was fully exposed by the trial: the club security officer who was shot dead in a Range Rover in Essex in a drugs-related killing; the club managers who, according to the head doorman, knew drugdealing flourished on the premises; the was said to have fled to Spain. But the only people caught by the police were Leah's friends. Leah, and her best friend Sarah, both wanted to take ecstasy at her 18th birthday party. They asked Louise whether she could help. She asked her boyfriend, Stephen, who in turn said he asked his friend, Steven. Sarah and Louise have both been formally cautioned over supplying drugs; Stephen has admitted the offence and awaits judgment: Steven denied the charge. None of the friends made any charge. None of the friends made any ing. Another danger is the dubious money out of the deal. Yet the charge quality of some tablets. Richard Wells, facing the boys has a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Absurdly, bravely took up the call in these supplying drugs to a friend remains columns to look at the Dutch approach "dealing" in the eyes of the law. Yet in under which a voluntary organisation the words of the prosecution, it was a tests the quality — and strength — of chain operation which goes on "day in, drugs before and during raves. People day out" across the country.

The issue facing policymakers which must include prosecutors — is Edinburgh's opposition to a needle-exhow best to protect young people from change scheme. Its addicts ended up such drugs. The law rightly rules ec- with the highest Aids incidence in the stasy illegal - we know far too little | whole of the UK.

THE CROWN Prosecution Service | about its effects as yet. Of course, its meets today to decide whether there dangers have been exaggerated in the tabloids but they are underplayed by some jejune junior commentators. It has been around for far too short a period — just over a decade — for any long-term effects to be identified. Yet we already know that it can cause paranoia, anxiety attacks, bad hangovers, depression and in exceptional cases, like Leah's, death. We also know hun-dreds of thousands of young people take the tablets. Most appear to suffer no bad effects. Certainly the harm it causes is only a fraction of the damage wreaked by alcohol and tobacco. Consumption estimates range from 150,000 to one million tablets per week. Parents may be appalled yet it was a related drug which kept today's grandparents awake and alert as fighter pilots and tank mysterious Mark Murray, named as the drivers in the second world war. That is dealer who supplied Leah's tablet, who part of the attraction of the tablets: the ability to party through the night as well as the euphoria it generates.

The aim must be harm reduction.
This is already being done beneath the hardline political rhetoric. Clubs have been told to ensure there is water available, a cool-off room and breaks after a series of fast dance numbers. One of the dangers of the drug is the dehydration it can cause, prompting the body to stop sweating to save fluid and thus creating dangerous overheatthe South Yorkshire Chief Constable, who oppose such harm-reducing programmes should pause to remember



General Mobutu deserves no comfort --- and no arms

with Western connivance on the basis corporations/white South Africans/ more havoc on the unfortunate Zairdefence is being revived even as he and his entourage return, laden with luxury spree on the French Riviera.

For better or for worse, it is claimed Mobutu has held the country together for a very long time. This claim is accompanied by the geopolitical nudgeand-wink that Zaire is a country of huge strategic and economic significance to the West. Yes, he may be hated continent whose people require a strong hand if existing frontiers are to remain sacrosanct.

This perverse version of history claim that "there was no Zaire before me." It is not just a distortion of the truth but one which may precipitate the country into an even worse disaster. The reality is that as a result of Mobu- happy fate.

GENERAL MOBUTU has been allowed | tu's misrule and massive extortion of to rape his country for the past 30 years | the national wealth, the "state" of Zaire as an effective entity, measured by all of one simple, wicked, rationale. He the normal criteria, disappeared long may be a thug, said the CIA/mining before the recent Tutsi rising. Health, education, transport, justice and finan-French/Israelis and others. But at least | cial accountability have long been fraghe's our thug. His use to Washington as | ile or non-existent. Local regimes in a conduit for dirty tricks and destabili- other provinces such as East and West sation ended with the cold war. So he Kasai and Shaba barely listen to Kinwas handed down to the French like a shasa. Governors in league with the grubby suit. Any qualms in Paris were military run their own personal verdispelled by the Rwandan crisis, and he | sions of their master's tyranny. Mobutu has now been resuscitated to wreak himself, before going to Europe for medical treatment, rarely set foot in his eans. Another perverse rationale in his own capital, preferring a luxurious rural hideaway.

So Papa returned to a welcome varigoods bought in a last-minute shopping ously described as "rapturous" and "ecstatic"? History should remind us that airport receptions are hardly an infallible guide to the true state of public opinion. Many of those who welcome him have been organised, or paid, to do so. Some political opponents will have experienced a remarkable conversion for much the same reasons. If there are by most of his people; but Africa is a genuine popular hopes of a miracle as a result of his return, this only shows the desperation to which Zaire has been reduced. The policy of all outside powers should be based on strict neutrality, comes close to echoing Mobutu's own keeping Mobutu at a very long arm's length. Energetic measures should be me, and there will be no Zaire after taken to seek an arms embargo upon all supplies, to Kinshasa as much as the rebels. A final break-up of Zaire can hardly be worse than its present un-

The envelope licks back

It's a case of return to sender: with benefits for everyone

cal exhaustion the envelope is surely the most obvious. It has been around a very long time and there is frankly not a lot more you can do with it. It is still made of paper (plastic is not environmentally friendly) and you can't do much about the shape because of the needs of automatic sorting machines. The most dramatic advance during the past hundred years was the invention of the self-sealing variety: interesting but hardly revolutionary. The envelope's greatest achievement is that it is still here after being declared dead by the phone, the fax and, lately, the arrival of electronic mailing (email).

Step forward, then, Tom Murray, a retired 63-year-old builder's foreman from Dublin. He has done the impossible: he has re-engineered the envelope. trillion calculations a second, the Fi- us that the past still has a future.

OF ALL products reaching technologi | nancial Times gave details of Mr Murray's attempt to propel the envelope through the digital age. His design enables the same one to be sent twice through the post without loss of security. In England alone nearly 14 billion letters are sent out by direct mailing companies. If Mr Murray's invention reduces that number substantially he will not only make a fortune but save forests from devastation. He may even prompt other inventors to look among less obvious products to see if there is any potential for re-engineering: like shoes, stamps, pencils, underpants, Nigel Mansell, beds, chairs, lavatory pans, shirts, books, doors, socks, bicycles, plates, bathtubs et al. Whether there will be enough letters written to fill Mr Murray's new invention during the digital age remains to be seen. But at least, Fittingly, on the day when Intel of the | by bringing in the old world to redress US announced a computer capable of a | the balance of the new, he has reminded



Letters to the Editor

Great hunger for the truth Labour puts the case both ways on that voting system

rights violation by the British government, part of Britain's 700-year oppression of the Irish people" (A hunger for justice, December 16). As an academic of some distinction, he should know better than to peddle this Sinn Fein view of

parison with the Holocaust, he does claim that the British government "did allow 1.5 million Irish men, women and children to die of starvation in a country they controlled, while substantial food sup-plies were shipped out of Ire-iand to England". In other words, there was a conscious and concerted policy not to

stop people dying.
If 19th-century Ireland had been in the iron grip of the British, as Dr Lahey implies, rather than part of a Victorian liberal democracy wedded to the ideology of minimal gov-ernment and laissez-faire, then it seems that his indictment of passive genocide would have to stand. As it was, I submit that the British guilty of gross stupidity and moral incompetence — with appalling results — rather than a heinous violation of human rights. Simon Partridge. Beresford Road. ondon N2.

WAS surprised to discover that a parade is to be the catalyst for peace in Northern Ireland. Surely the Orange

R JOHN Lahey claims | Order has demonstrated that | fort from the fact that Collins that the Irish famine of | parades cannot combine car- is a flawed hero (if a charis- 1845-50 was a "human- nival with political/religious | matic and sexy one) and debate without conflict?

Are generalisations about "British oppression" and "Protestants" really the "facts of history"? Dr Lahey ignores the 250,000 Presbyterians who emigrated to the US from Ireland between 1717 and 1776 in search of religious freedom. Edward Moisson. Toker's Green Reading, Berks RG4.

WHY should "no comparison be made" between the Great Hunger and the Holocaust? Or, indeed, the massacre of Sukharno sup-porters and Indonesian communists by their political op-ponents in 1965? The difficulty encountered when trying to write the latter infamy into the pages of history is that most of the nations which would do so are also trying to maintain normal relations with the present regime in In-donesia. Likewise, the diffi-culty which expatriate Irish-men have in making the world listen to the Great Hunger story is that we British are

About some events. British minds can be changed: witness the reaction to the film. Michael Collins. Despite the hysteria which preceded its release, British filmgoers are flocking to see it. They recognise the essential fact that 26 counties of Ireland separated and became independent of Britain in 1921 and that the British are mostly the villains

matic and sexy one) and doomed to be destroyed by the violence he unleashed. Dr La-hey, by contrast, preaches to the converted on St Patrick's Day and only succeeds in winding up British Embassy officials and a few newspaper

Nick Watts. Lady Coventry Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15,

DR LAHEY'S argument is over-simplified and selective. To fall to mention that, while some food was exported at that time from Ireland, more was imported, and to fail to refer to the prevailing (and restrictive) economic ortho-doxies, limited logistical infrastructures and general igno-rance, as well as the heroic efforts by some to counter the hunger and disease of the time, is less than fair. (Prof.) David Harkness. Département D'Anglais, Université Blaise Pascal,

84, avenue Carnot, 63057 Clermoni-Ferrand, France.

ment regarding Britain's callous disregard of the Irish during the Great Famine and concur with his defence of teaching the subject to American children. I am sure he would wish them to be just as thoroughly informed about America's policies concerning the North American Indians. M Dickenson. Laidon Avenue, Wisaston, of the piece. They take com-Crewe, Cheshire CW2

ways on that voting system

AN Aitken is right that we PR; when the weaknesses of should go back to the draw-ing board on a voting system transfer their allegiance to to end cynicism about politics (PR turns politics upside-down down under, December 12). But he is wrong to assume that what happened in New Zealand did not deliver the

policies the people wanted. The fact is that no party was able to win majority support amongst the electorate. A Labour-led coalition could eas-Labour-let coantion could cas-lly have been the result of the cross-party negotiations; it did not happen, but there is no evidence that New Zealand's new system caused Labour to

be kept out of office.
The figures suggest that, had the election been curried out under the British firstpast-the-post system, the result would either have been a hung Parliament or a Conservative majority in Parlia-ment without a majority of the popular vote. In Britain, we know what first-past-thepost means: 18 years of Tory rule when there has been an anti-Tory majority in the country for all of that time.

We need a system that will give us the sort of democratic more economically successful and less divided society, with politics reflecting life in the real world. Richard Burden MP. Chair, Labour Campaign for

Electoral Reform.

House of Commons

London SWIA DAA SUPPORTERS of propor-tional representation (Letters, December 14, 17) like to suggest that the choice is bean first-past-the-post and PR. This is not the case.

transfer their allegiance to another. They are now doing this with New Zeakind, a system they used to hold up as a model for Britain.

As Ian Aitken showed, you can vote for one thing under PR yet achieve the opposite. It was Winston Peters who promised that a vote for him was a vote for a change of government. Once again, smoke-filled rooms, PR and dirty deals have gone together. Derck Fatchett MP.

Chair, First-Past-the-Post Group. House of Commons, London SWIA OAA.

THE New Zealand election result cannot be used by John Gray as an argument against PR (How to keep the new right out in the cold, December 16). Not only did it produce a cabinet that more accurately reflects the popular mood, it also resulted in a commitment to increased public spending on health and education and increased numbers of Maori and women

ternative and Supplementary Vote systems is fundamen-AV/SV is designed to produce over-representation for centre parties and to exclude smaller parties such as the Greens. Thankfully, many in the Labour Party recognise the argent need for full proportional representation. David Taylor.

Principal Speaker. Lockyers Farm. Dundon, Somerton There are many systems of | Somerset TA11 6PE.

Skye and high

✓OUR report (Crofters I reject "feudal" claims of clan chief, December 13) refers to a House of Lords agricultural committee debating the Crofting Reform Bill. The Lords does not have an agriculture committee and there is no Crofting Reform Bill before it. However, it is currently considering the Transfer of Crofting Estates (Scotland) Bill.

Last week, the select com-mittee on this Bill, under my chairmanship, visited crofts in Skye and took evidence in Inverness from the govern-ment minister responsible for the Bill, and from crofting and other interested organisations.

Lord Jauncey House of Lords London SWIA OAA.

/OUR leader (December 16) I about the loss of adherents to the Catholic churches applies equally to the Protestant churches. The younger generation has no use for tradi-tional religion. The tragedy is that the mainstream churches retain their wealth, property and privileges. Something needs to be done to ensure that the resources now appropriated by declining churches are made available to all the community, especially the young. Terry Mullins.

T takes a truly twisted logic to argue, as Mary Kenny does, (Letters, December 6) that there is something undemocratic about Emily's List. We are a fundraising network; like every political organisation, we help people who broadly agree with our views, and not those who campaign against us. What on earth is wrong with that? Glenys Thornton. 40 Lavender Grove.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit



Smells fishy

ONSERVATIVE Eurowith the Government in the fisheries debate (Test vote victory for Tories, December 17) should be aware of the destructive influence of the

Meeting (IMM) on the Inte-gration of Fisheries and Envi-we also see a policy of non-co in Bergen in March 1997. The Commission has said it will not be able to sign if minis-ters "agree" to any fisheries 9 Gloucester Rose conservation measures relat- Ross-on-Wye HR9 5BU.

ing to allowable catches, de-commissioning of fleets and access to fishing grounds. To ONSERVATIVE Eurosceptic MPs who voted legally binding and they with the Government in the isheries debate (Test vote what North Sea states, includ-

ing the UK, propose.

If this view prevails, the
IMM would be another European Commission on missed opportunity to confisheries conservation efforts. The EC has sought to neu-ter the conclusions of the 1997 Intermediate Ministerial ing industry as action on mad operation to protect them? Guy Linley-Adams. Marine Conservation Society.

A plea for workers' rights

legislation on actors' residu-als for rentals of audio/visual material has finally been completed (TV drama shock horror, December 12). Unfortunately, each claim must be lodged with the relevant producer dating back before 1994. The producer must then acknowledge receipt of this claim. So far, so laborious. But here's the rub.

All claims must be ac knowledged by December 31, 1996. This gives the actor clai-maints a couple of weeks just before Christmas to write to possibly hundreds of producers — that's if the producers are still alive and, more often than not, that's also by way of a TV or film company which no longer exists. Neither the DTI nor Equity nor any of the legal experts can tell us con-clusively whether the period London N10 1DU.

EWS has reached Equity | is 1992-94 only, or from any members this week that | time before 1994. The Government has known about this deadline for two years. The final wording was not completed until De-cember 1. It must have known it would be impossible to complete the task in the time given. It's our belief that the Government has knowingly or carelessly obstructed our rights and that, therefore, the deadline must be extended in order for us to comply with the European directive.

Maureen Lipman, Richard Tim Piggott-Smith, Julia McKenzie, Warren Mitchell, Anton Rogers, Gloria Hunniford, Ronnie Barker, George Cole, Miriam Margolyes and Nigel Hawthorne.

c/o Dramatic Licence Ltd.

Misadventure in the interior

YOU report (Obituary, De-cember 17) that Sir Lau-rens van der Post described his In A Province (1934) as "the first book by an indigenous South African against racial prejudice". Variou counter-examples spring to mind, most notably Sol Plaatje's Native Life In South Africa (1916). But Plaatje was only a black, so presumably didn't count.

Van Der Post's arrogant myopia is typical of a man who laimed to be an opponent of apartheld yet denounced Nel-son Mandela's speech on leav-ing prison as "communist" and recently blamed the ANC government for Johannes-burg's crime rate, which long preceded Mandela's election London N1 2QW.

victory. Anti-racist? Humbug, more like it. (Prof) Alex Callinicos. Department of Politics, University of York. Heslington, York YOI 5DD.

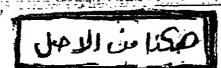
ONE can see why Laurens van der Post was trea-sured as a thinker by the Prince of Wales. The same Jungian and holistic subtlety that enabled him to take a Thatcher knighthood, oppose sanctions and uphold the pro-tege of apartheid, Buthelezi, has enabled the Prince to let himself be used to promote British arms sales to auto cratic regimes.

John Wardroper. 60 St Paul's Road.

A Country Diary

WHITCHURCH, BUCKS: There | yew grew into a tree of the are all kinds of yews dotted | most striking and distinare all kinds of yews dotted around this village north of the Aylesbury Vale scrubby bushes self-seeded in stone walls, a great pyramidal tree behind the Old Court House, young hopefuls in new gardens. But nowhere in the windy hilltop churchyards or rectory garden could I see the variety I'd come searching. variety I'd come searching for: one of the famously-pendulous Dovaston yews given as a seedling to an early 19th century incumbent, the Rev Thomas Archer. I confess I'd never heard of var. Dovastonia until Philip Oswald showed me one in the Cambridge Botanic Garden this autumn. Its long, low-slung brances and cascading curtains of branchlets seemed to Wilson, Sir Ian McKellan, me 'only marginally less remarkable than the story of its discovery and propaga-tion. It was found in 1777, in a hedge-bank at Westfelton in Shropshire, by a cobbler, who gave it to John Dovaston Snr. His son, the eccentric natural. ist JFM Dovaston, later wrote a wonderfully florid account of its progress; "The

guished beauty ... each branch in every direction dangling in tressy verdure down to the very ground ... its foliage, like that of asparagus, is admirably adapted for retaining the dew drops and at sunrise it would seem that Titanta and a bevy of her fairies had been revelling the night around it, and left their lamps in capricious frolick, so glittering coruscant is every branch". And if these were not marvels enough, this male tree soon put out a single branch "exuberantly profuse in female berries". No-one has yet explained this remarkable sex change (might the original seedling have been two yews, intertwined?), but Dovaston raised 17 plants from the berries. every one of which shared "the parents' pensility". These were distributed to Whitehurch, and to friends at Wilcott, Tedsmere Hall and Whittingon rectory (all Shropshire). It would be fascinating to know if any survive. RICHARIJ MAREY



Diary

Matthew Norman

N one of those little econ-ouries that are so vital when you're struggling on a combined income of about £350,000, Cherie Booth QC has got herself the one thing for which pacifists will happily kill each other. She has wangled herself a free parking space in Central London . . . and it's in the House of Commons car park! The donor is not her old man, Mr Tony Blair, who has a chauffeur-driven government car, but Cam-bridge MP Ann Campbell, a likeable and ambitious frontbencher who travels by train. Ms Campbell has altruistically transferred her pass into Cherie's name her pass into Cherie's name
— a manoeuvre which, although highly unusual,
may just about sneak the
right side of the rulebook.
Even so, convention holds
that these passes (gold dust
at Westminster) are solely
for MPs and researchers for MPs and researchers. Should peevish Tories in-volve parliamentary stan-dards enforcer Sir Gordon forced to hand it back. Let us hope not. However rarely she uses it (and it's quite a walk from there to her chambers), that pass may mean more to Cherie than she realises. For as Joni Mitchell so sagely teaches us in that splendid transport song Big Yellow Taxi, you dunno what you've got 'til it's gone.

LETTER has arrived from Mark Stucklin of the cigar importer Hunters & Frankau. "After reading about your column's reputation for ex-haustive research," he writes, "I enclose a sample box containing one of each the new brand of Havanas." Sorry about this, Mr Stucklin, but what I wrote was that a box of 25, or prefera-bly 50, would allow for proper research. You, how ever, have sent a box of four. I will therefore divulge only one letter -- "C" — of the cigar's name. This column may well be the most corrupt in Fleet Street. But that doesn't make it

HTE Stage newspaper has a vacancy for someone to replace the assistant in a knife-throwing act. Your first booking, should you join Circus Showtime, will be in Broadstairs on Boxing Day. Vol-unteers are warned that the job is perilous, and the fallout rate high: previous as-sistant Carla Brooky broke her leg falling off a kerb on will be out for some time.

N today's extract from the 10-page instruction manual Your Guide To Working For Harriet, we come to the passage called Induction of Volunteers. Should you find yourself in her employ, and faced with a shiny faced New Labour proto-weeny, this may help. 'It is essential to stress from day one:

• They are representatives of the Harriet Harman

 The confidential and sensitive nature of work keeping this within the confines of the office. Not leaving documents.

papers, letters, etc in the photocopier.

Commonsense stuff. Not answering the phones (ever or at least not for the first six weeks)."

The Harriet Harman Office ... keeping the guide within the office ... not answering the phone for at least six weeks ... isn't it absolutely priceless? More

None of the most migraine-inducing custody Judge Frederick Barad must decide the destination of an 18-month-old baby in Miami. There are two choices - the natural mother, who has a history of pyromania and sold him at birth for \$1.100; and his grandparents, the nudist, fortune-telling gypsies who bought him. Anyone with the answer can send it to Judge Barad, who has post-poned his judgment, on a postcard.

EWS of a new and potentially useful de-vice for dealing with angry banks comes from a Somerset teacher, who received a letter reading "Your bank account ap-pears to be overdrawn" last week. "Please write again," he succinctly replied, when you are absolutely



What on earth is Prince Charles up to?

Commentary Catherine **Bennett**

SLAM is not to everyone's taste, but for someone like Prince Charles, you can see why it might have its charms. "We need to be taught by Islamir teachers how to learn with our hearts, as well as with our heads," he declared last week, in his latest burst of Islamic fervour. "I feel that we in the West could be helped to rediscover the ing by an appreciation of the . Islamic tradition's respect for the natural order."

the natural order."

It would certainly have helped, for instance, if "we in the West", or, to be precise, we women in the West, appreciated that men come first in the natural order. Given with the natural order. Given wider acceptance of the bit in the Koran that says, "Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the cities and rior to the other, and because niceties of Shari'ah law. Pre-they spend their wealth to maintain them", and specifi-cally the line, "Good women will not be stoned or beaten by

are obedient", Charles might i devout Saudi or Bangladeshi

rowly rational argument can

satisfactorily explain why Prince Charles should enjoy any eminence or power what-soever, the irrationality of contemporary Islam may well appeal to him more than the cultural heritage of the Enlightenment, for which he so often evinces disclaim: "Mod-ern materialism, in my hum-ble opinion, is unbalanced and asingly damaging in its increasingly damaging in its long-term consequences." For example, in addition to creat-ing the Prince's motor cars, his private aeroplane and the machines which pack his ex-clusive brand of biscuits, modern materialism has created BSE. It follows, in his princely opinion, that we must look to Islam: "In my view a more holistic approach is needed

the announcement that the Prince will, in the new year, make a royal tour of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qater, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. It should be a splendid introduction to the

have been spared that ghastly business with Diana. He would certainly command more respect than his mother and sister.

Furthermore, as no narrand the adulterer and the adulterer shall each be given states: "The adulterer and the adulteress shall each be given 100 lashes. Let no pity for God..."

More important, at least to those members of the Angli-

those members of the Angli-can Church who regularly pray for Charles to be endued with the Holy Spirit and en-riched with heavenly grace, is the extent of his infatuation. Islam is not a religion in which it is easy to dabble. The Koran demands to be read as the literal truth, the inspired word of God. Anyone who de-nies its teachings is an unbeword of God. Anyone who de-nies its teachings is an unbe-liever: "They will strive to get out of the Fire, but get out of it they shall not Lasting punish-ment awaits them." Nor will Christians and Jews, who share part of Islamic history, be spared: "God confound them! How perverse they are!" One wonders how well this One wonders how well this fits with Charles's Anglicanism, or indeed with all the other faiths which he proposes, impartially, to defend, after his accession to the

can teach us "to rediscover the roots of our own under-

learn its own lessons by rote, by threat, and by bribes —
"This is the Paradise which the righteous have been promised. Therein shall flow rivers of water undefiled, and rivers of milk forever fresk; rivers of wine delectable to those that drink it, and rivers of clarified honey ..." As the infidel aphorist Pascal wrote, in the mid-17th century: "It is not by what is obscure in Mohammed, and what can gain accepmed, and what can gain acceptance as a mystical sense, that want him to be judged, but

by what is obvious; his para-dise, and everything else. That

why it is wrong to take his enigmas for mysteries, given that his visions are absurd." There is, as Britain's legions of educated Arabists have of educated Arabists have been reminding us for years, much to respect in Islam's glorious cultural history. Before we reflexively deplore Shari'ah law, or offer anachronistic objections to the Koran's sexual inequality, we should remember the beauties of Sufism, the Islamic contribution to classic scholarship, its legacy in philosophy, medicine, mathematics and astrology. Well, bearing that in mind, and conceding that many devout Muslims are reasonable and tolerant and may not even

chosen the most extraordinary moment to preach the OW many of his audience have forgotten that it is in the name of Islam that Afghani-stan's Taliban fighters now confine women to their homes, deny girls an educa-tion, and ban everything from songbirds to chess to music?

and tolerant and may not even

believe that women are infe-rlor, Prince Charles has still

not to confuse these murder-ers and flugs with civilised practitioners of the faith, but, to judge by the last year, little humane light seems to be shining into the darker corners of Islam, and even moder ate countries are threatened by fundamentalism. In Paki-sian, the promises of Benazir Bhutto did not stop around one woman a day being killed in domestic "stove burnings". In Egypt, a Cairo court or dered a professor and his wife to divorce, on the grounds that his scademic work on the Koran proved him an apostate. Also within the last year, our allies in Kuwait sentenced a businessman to death for con verting to Christianity, while our business partners in Saudi Arabia have just be-headed a Syrian for "practis-ing witchcraft".

Of course Prince Charles

has been associating with quite different kinds of Musquite different kinds of Mus-lim leaders. But it would be interesting to know who they are. Do they include Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammad, who supports Hamas, agitates for an Islamic state, and recently called for homosexuals to fling themselves of Big Ben? Or the dissident Dr al-Mas'eri, who has used the new freedom of speech which we in this country have given him to call for the extermination of the Jews? What exactly does Prince Charles mean by offer-ing his public support to Islam? Does he himself even know? As his prospective subsongbirds to chess to must:
Thieves have had their hands amoutated, in obedience to the Koran ("cut off their hands to jects, we must hope that he does not."

achilterers have been stoned to death, women have been beaten with car aeriels for showing their eyes or ankles. In Algeria, Islamic "mujahid" rape and kill their female coreligionists. In Sudan, Christian children are abducted and indoctrinated.

Loyal Arabists instruct us not to confuse these murder and fines with capilised.



David McKie

OME WORDS of Margot Asquith have started appearing suspiciously often in newspapers. "There is nothing more popular in the House of Commons," she is said to have said, "than to blame yourself. I have killed my mother. I will never do it again' is certain to raise a cheer." Soon these lines will appear in anthologies, along with: "He is very clever, but sometimes his brains go to his head" (of Lord Birkenhead): and (to the actress Jean Har-low, who had called her Mar-gott) "the "t is silent, as in Harlow".

I think I know why. People

have been reading Christo-pher Silvester's excellent Litment, where this story appears on page 67. Curiously it crops up again on page 413, but this time attributed to Margot's stepdaughter, Violet Bonham Carter, No doubt this discrepancy can be resolved in time for the second edition, perhaps by adding, at the start of the Bonham Carter attribution: "As my dear old step-mum never tired of aying:..." What is harder to resolve is

whether her words are true. The answer today must be only with reservations. The success of your apology depends on a host of contingent factors, such as what your colleagues generally think of you (also, perhaps, what they think of your mother.) One immediate and total forgivemess for even the most abject mess for even the most anject apology if uttered by Douglas Hogg. In both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary poli-tics, there is a kind of unofficial system of penalty points. Murder your mother once and they may forgive you. Murder her twice — even vary the formula by murdering your cook or your butler — and you'll find they are somewhat

The mystery in the matter of David Willetts, another then staying away. practitioner whose brains sometimes go to his head, is how he would have been treated had he not dis-sembled. Suppose he had been sembled. Suppose he had been permitted simply to say: doc in the early 14th century. The local priest, Pierre Clerto the whips' office. I thought things like this went on all the time." Would the select committee have been quite so censorious then? The whips would have been aghast, but many backbenchers would rebukes him. "You bestard!"

Ashdown — uttered no immediate condemnation. He and his advisers must know that all governments in tight corners (as they expect to be soon) have recourse to under-hand tactics. A similar points system did for Sir Nicholas Scott. He was ousted by his constituency party not just be-cause he fell on the pavement but because he had been in trouble before. Moreover, in an incident which may have figured rather more powerfully in local calculations than it did in the press, he had failed to turn up at the annual Conference party organised by local officials: the sort of occasion that's the highlight of the political year for them, if not for him. On top of which, against the sage advice of Sir Julian Critchley in this newspaper, he attempted a joke. "A broken and a contrite as it says in Psalm 51. Jokes

do not go with contrition.
This is also, I guess, why
Steve Norris emerged unscathed from the revelations about his private life. The fall of David Mellor, which involved a mere ten toes rather trast. What finally brought him down, as it were, was not, as people now think, Antonia de Sancha, but the boliday paid for by Mona Bauwens. Norris, too, wasn't thought, as Mellor was, to be bumptious, and in need of taking down a peg; nor did he suffer from Willetts's sin, cleverness. He simply made a cheery admission and said this was how he was. A lot of them rather admired it. Better, in the Conservative Party, five mis-

EVER blur or equivo-cate. The alternative to contrition is bluster, but it has to be high-class bluster, of the kind which is practised by Michael Heseltine and Ken Clarke on Today. Take the fight to the enemy. Pretend that no fault exists. Berate the interviewers and the institution that fields them — BBC Radio 4, Classic FM, Hunstanton Hospital radio, or whoever. Once you have started, go through with it. Nell Hamilton damaged himself after he called off his court case by first telling the Evening Standard he would still be attending a party in Downing Street, which some

The most powerful example I know comes from religion, not politics: from Montaillou, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie's study of a a village in Languemany backbenchers would rebukes him. "You bastard!" he thunders. "You have just parhaps is why, when reports of the Willetts memo surfaced. Tony Blair — unlike Paddy model to all blusterers.



Bringing rights home

Jack Straw explains how Labour will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law; but **John Wadham**, below, argues that the plans don't go far enough

European Union one question constantly resurfaces: "How different would this institution have been — and our relationship with it — if we had been in at the start, and had brought our skills and judicial and parliamentary traditions to hear on the Convention was to ensure mentary traditions to bear on the framework of the Treaty of Rome?" Yet there is a Euroof Rolle? Fet that separate pean treaty (wholly separate from the EU) which the United Kingdom effectively invented — the 1951 European Convention on Human Rights

(ECHR). But instead of acting as proud parents, we have in-stead, for 50 years, been em-barrassed about what we achieved in drafting this con-vention, and what its institutions have achieved since. Extraordinarily, the United Kingdom is alone of the 40 members in not having the Convention's terms effec-tively incorporated into its

domestic law.

Today I shall be announceing Labour's firm intention to make good this omission, and I shall, with the Shadow Law Officer, Paul Boateng MP, be publishing a detailed consultative document about how we intend to achieve this aim. The title of our document is Bringing Rights Home - for

Human Rights Bill for incorporation in February 1987, the then Conservative MP, Sir Edward Gardner QC, told the Commons: "If anyone suggests that these [the ECHR] are foreign laws which are foreign to our minds and spirits. I suggest that he has not read the Convention's

they are our rights.
When he introduced his

N THE interminable de-bates over our associa-tion with the rest of the European Union one Chancilor from 1964 to 1962.

the Convention was to ensure that as far as possible no European country should ever again deny fundamental which the Nazis had done before and during the war. Precisely because it was a British invention, the incor-poration of our common law's notion of rights (and responsi-

did have the right of redress | proposed withdrawal from | mitted Labour to this path. by directly petitioning the | the Convention. But the ab | Sir Ivan Lawrence. Conserva-Buropean Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, set up by the ECHR to determine alleged abuses. Over time, some British citizens, with the tenacity and the funds, have followed the tortuous path to that Court. In turn, that Court has pronounced clear rights to petitioners from Britain which they have not been able directly to ac-cess in British courts. The rights, for example, of press freedom, in the Thalido-

mide case (1979) and the Goodwin case (1996). Tele-phone tapping by the state was wholly unregulated by statute until the Malone case in 1984. Declarations about parents' rights in part led to the introduction of the Children Act 1989, and other deci-sions leading to greater ac-cess by citizens to files held on them by local authorities.
In every case where a decision is made by the Court against the state, the British government is bound by the Convention to change the bilities) was not thought Convention to change the incorporation from both necessary.

In any event — so the arguing the Court's decisions. Not ment went — British citizens one Tory minister has ever Tony Blair have firmly com-

sence of incorporation gives us the worst of all worlds. We are bound by the Convention; but the Court over the years has been denied the benefit of British jurisprudence, and the great intellectual force of our common-law courts and lawyers. Worst of all, British residents cannot directly access their rights under the Convention in British courts. It is — at the very least — possible that the British Courts could have come to a different decision in the recent Diane Blood case if they had been able to apply the Convention in making their decision. As it is, Mrs

Blood may have to go to Strasbourg to exercise rights which technically she has The argument about incorporation has ebbed and flowed across the political divide over the years. There was bipartisan back-bench support for Edward Gardner's 1967 Bill, but opposition to

way in which we plan to effect incorporation. One key is to ensure that Parliament is fully and continuously involved in the process. To achieve this we are proposing a powerful Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament acting as a select committee.

The sovereignty of Parlia ment will no more be affected than by our initial signature on the Convention in 1951. It will be open to any future Parliament to end incorporation, or to withdraw from the Treaty altogether. But neither is likely. And the benefits which will flow from incorporation should be significant.

At long last those rights which we have given, not just many countries across the globe, will be accessible and available in the British courts. We shall be bringing rights back home.

tive Chairman of the Com-

mons Home Affairs Select Committee, is in favour too.

Our document sets out the

Jack Straw MP is Shadow Home

Good but not good enough

Party's consultation paper on the incorpora-tion of the European Con-vention on Human Rights into domestic law. Labour has decided that the Conaccount by all courts, that Parliament has a key role in ensuring that legislation complies with the Convention, and that there should tion, and that there should be other mechanisms, possibly a Human Rights Commission, to foster human rights in this country. These are all very welcome

The proposals may not go far enough, however, in other ways. First, although

Convention to obtain com-pensation. Surely, in cases involving asylum-seekers who have been detained in inhuman or degrading con-ditions; peaceful protesters government to keep secret files on us; people spied on by the police or who have had a bug planted in their homes, all should be entitled to compensation.

Second, the courts must apparently seek to ensure that the implementation of other legislation complies with the Convention, but if not read the Convention's articles."

The rights" in the ECHR, said Sir Edward, "were drafted by two English law-

WELCOME the Labour | might not be able to use the | valuable. It would mean the individual who was able to prove that his or her rights had been violated, perhaps a journalist im-prisoned "lawfully" in relation to the Contempt of from discrimination, are Court Act for not revealing only inadequately adda source, would neverthe ressed in the Convention, less lose the case in this and other rights, such as country. What would then the rights of children, are have to follow is a petition to the Commission in Strasto the Commission in Stras-bourg for redress, still a sonly the first step in enlong and cumbersome pro-cedure. Parliament would he expected to change the to see a clearer commit-law, but if it did not do so ment by the Labour Party the domestic courts would be powerless. The danger is, of course, that if a case concerned an unpopular concerned concerne concerned an unpopular group of people like travel-

cases are, then Parliament might never get round to changing the law. The law would then he in a mess with the courts saving one thing and Parliament

another.

Third, the Convention is out of date and needs to be improved. Many rights, such as a right to be free missing completely. Incorsuring full protection of human rights. I would like of discussing such a Bill.

John Wadhem is a solicitor and





Quentin Bell

Head, heart and hands of **Bloomsbury**

een relished and taken for times happens that the solid

case of Quentin Bell, whose death from a heart attack, aged 86, has spread deep sadwith him in literary squibs, aged 86, has spread deep sad-ness. His presence and lifestyle form a continuous conversation-piece drawn with strength, permanency and delicacy on the inner screen of memory. There is no need to choose among phases of his life — from his rumbustious boyhood to his dignified old age he remained firmly and ntially the same human

brother Julian when they wards he developed pleurisy were schoolboys. My first disnard and Lydia Keynes in the late 1920s. It was a typical Bloomsbury festivity with elaborate entertainments, such as a brilliant imperson-Desmond MacCarthy, so well disguised that not a soul recognised her and she was able to slip across a lot of home truths. But the most amusing performance was given in all unconsciousness by the Bell boys, standing side by side in ning suits several sizes too hig for them and carrying on a non-stop fortissimo duologue, than himself, who was killed punctuated by peals of ringing in the Spanish civil war. Durlaughter. This habit of youthing the second world war

great charms.

He grew into a tall young man with light red hair, a noble brow and a pink complexion. There was something cherubic in his appearance: figure dissolves, perhaps because time has shaken the kaleidoscope of images.

This is far from true in the with his aunt, Virginia Woolf, while her diary notices his development. At 16 he was "terrifyingly sophisticated". Her sister Vanessa's children "had grown up without oppo-sition, nothing to twist or stunt". At 18 he had become elegant, quick and sensitive; by 22 he had "all Nessa's sense and Clive's shrewdness."

He was notably objective being.

I knew Quentin and his interested in politics, psychoanalysis, etcetera. Soon after-Charleston. Perhaps it was this unwelcome inactivity that altered the course of his life: he had always been a great reader, now he took to writing, painting and potting as well, for he was true to the environment of his youth in preferring to be busy in body or mind. Yet — potent though that environment had been -Quentin always made the im-

pression of thoughtfully chart-ing his own course. In 1937 be lost his elder brother, a sympathetic com-panion more tempestuous

then that he began to visit us

at Ham Spray.
Charleston imposed on its inmates an invaluable training in self-sufficiency which made them excellent guests who knew what they wanted to do and set about it. Quentin would arrive for a hot summer weekend, dressed only in dungarees, with a small bag of washing and painting things, then strip off the dungarees and disappear — a pink streak

He always made the impression of thoughtfully charting his own course

- into the swimming pool. He I remember he told us how passionately interested he was in the war — he would not time for anything. Woolf described him as being like a large red and white

sheepdog, suggesting that he had already grown the beard which made him look so much found his greatest joys in famolder than he was. It was a liy life and in using his hands. typically rational decision having was a waste of time. With the peace came fulfilment in many spheres: his idyllically happy marriage to Olivier Popham; his academic progress as a professor of Art History, which took him to whom he was later to write so by the sea, their impudence

ful and euphonious amuse ment remained with Quentin was restored to Newcastle, Leeds and Oxford, sympathetically and amusing the latter of the his career as a writer on diverse subjects from the his-tory of dress to the life of Virginia Woolf (which won several prizes). Painting gave way to ceramics: there were life-sized figures in pottery or

fibreglass, smaller ones for indoors - brightly coloured and showing a vein of Gothic fantasy; jugs, mugs and dishes. But like everything he did and said, all transparently exed his personality. He was an excellent lecturer, too, with a dry and individual wit; even the anxious furrows that appeared on his forehead seemed to be self-mocking. So-called retirement drew him again to Sussex, where his three children grew up and his friends enjoyed a warm welcome at Cobbe Place

and Firle — where all was harmony and comfort, where pictures from Bloomsbury and the Euston Road hung on subtly coloured walls, where every room was full of books and Quentin's pottery stood on every shelf and table. In my favourite mental por-trait, he is emerging at about tea-time from his potter's ment and benevolent affection on his face - it was that of a

man who was, in the best sense, an intellectual, yet

Millais and Holman Hunt Landseer and Watts. But this gifted sprig of Bloomsbury, born in the year of Roger Fry's first Post-Impressionist much his own.

I am sure that those whom

he later called his "elders and betters" would have been was to give a scintillating series of lectures in Oxford on Victorian art and to write a book about Ruskin (1963). This last remains a succinc guide to the great critic's "mass of incontinent verbiage" as Roger Fry had char-acterised the 39 volumes of Ruskin's collected works. Quentin Bell's clear-eyed ob-jectivity, his humour, his humane rationalism and his aversion to received opinion
— even to his own — made
him an excellent cicerone to the complex landscape of

his lectures, Victorian Artists (1967), was a pionearing over-view of the period by some-one who was fully aware of the greater importance of Cézanne, Matisse and Picasso. Scholars of the period might deplore his levity, but all envied the buoyant and aphoris-tic style with which he delighted his Oxford audience. Few could forget his pas-sion on the subject of the great Victorian illustrators, the attention he drew to

lard or a supremely fortunate garland of rigging". In one sense, both these books represent Bell's reac-tion to the aesthetic climate

in which he had grown up. They are a spirited salvo against the "significant form" and over-francophile views of his father Clive Bell, rather than against Roger Fry, Quentin's true mentor he continued to admire. Such reaction, however, was evident at a much earlier date in

He would emerge from Charleston pottery, beard and blue overalls

smeared with clay

Quentin's pottery and paint-ing. Even his mother Vanessa the desires of her children begged him not to become "a neo-Pre-Raphaelite — really

too shady, my dear".

His early work was lightly experimental and his first London exhibition, in 1935, was of surrealist-inspired collages. Later, he assumed a more objective discipline, encouraged by his attendance at the Euston Road School where he met his life-long friends, William Coldstream, Victor Pasmore, Claude Rog-ers and Lawrence Gowing. As a painter, his last major work iffrst came to know Quentin Bell, artist, surbor, decoration of Berwick emerge from a buzzing day in Church, Sussex (with his the Charleston pottery, beard died December 16, 1996

1940-42. Certainly, his austere Burne-Jonesish mural of the Wise and Foolish Virgins contrasts with the warmer lyricism of his collaborators. By then, Quentin's interest in ceramics, technically in the Potteries, had become dominant. From sturdy cups and saucers decorated by himself with brisk abstract calligraphy or idealised fe-male heads, he moved on to sculpture. He worked on small and large scale, from intimate figurative peep-shows, through fantastic

es and nymphs (some can be seen today in the garden at Charleston) which his wife, Olivier, would reluctantly

proportions.

mainly relegated to the sum-Newcastle and Leeds. Journalism flourished in spare moments and a little moneyspinner called *Bioomsbury* (1968), his first account of the milieu in which he spent his "gosling epoch of existence". was recognised, even by Bloomsbury's many detrac-tors, as a brilliant addition to cultural history. It was written when he was already engaged on his most celebrated book, the biography of his sunt Virginia Woolf (1972). It was at this period that I first came to know Quentin

A life in art . . . Quentin Bell, above, drawn by Walter Sickert at a Bloomsbury party in the Twenties "wearing an evening suit several sizes too big" and emitting "peak of ringing laughter". Left, he was photographed by Howard Grey in 1979, when he had grown into the beard he had adopted when young. Far left, he is seen with sister, Angelica Garnett, before the famous painted fireplace of the family home Charleston, in 1982, in a photograph by

nother and Duncan Grant) in | and blue | overalls sm with clay, one eye on his kiln, the other on a splendidly spread table, to have tea with Duncan Grant, myself and any other guests. He was in-mersed in Virginia and there were questions he had to ask octogenarian painter's memtime with hair raising abandon, was often vivid and precise. There ensued hilarious conversations between these two Charlestonians who would dissolve into laughter at Bloomsbury's remembered follies and foibles.

For a schoolboy, as I then was, it was a true education. Quentin had the envisble ability to move without pomposity from the personal and agree were based on her gossipy to the serious and handsome face and objective. His puns could be excruciating and his teasing This see-saw life of fine art almost terminal; but they and writing took on great urgency after his marriage. Painting and potting were a chapter of history or a

Woolf is his finest publication. It may have minor limi-tations but it remains a sutanons but it remains a su-perb portrait with all the shadows and delicacy of a great full-length by Gains-borough. On every page there is wit and humanity and kindliness, qualities which Quentin had in abundance. They shone through in his last years when, frequently troubled by ill-health, he was looked after by Olivier with inspiring devotion, one that was returned full-fold.

Ruby Murray

The husky queen of broken hearts

troubled, often unhappy and alcohol-shadowed life, has

She had been modestly unique among British popular singers. If she was, in her heyday in the 1950s, the queen of the top twenty — and only Elvis Presley and Madonna have equalled her in having five records simultaneously there — she was a sad one, with an apparently incurable sense of exile and helplessness. Her busky tone result of her throat getting rusty after her mother left her out in the rain — always suggested that she was on the point of breaking down in

quiet tears. Her number one hit Softly Softly, which was her signa-ture tune for 41 years, and her second release, Heartheat, which went straight to numr two in the charts, established her as a national favourite and over the years made millions, although

mostly for other people.

Although she was earning extensively in the 1950s, when she was cutting two or three records in a morning, appearing in a TV series and performing at the London Palladium in the evenings, much of the money slipped out of her grasp, in ways that she, or those professionally close to her, could have prevented. But she had little financial sense and, though singing was something she had done since her early childhood, actually going on stage was a torture which grew worse as

(and her senior by 18 years), and disorderly. Spending a

theatres. Ruby Murray was always "just an ordinary lovely girl" whose natural-ness did indeed make her The Girl Next Door — a tag which seemed to be part of that condescension which she always feared and resented.

If she had no gimmicks and no backing groups, just her own sweet voice and person-ality, this was part of her performing problem: it left her over-exposed and sucked dry by the demands of her art. When she died yesterday in Torbay Hospital, of acute liver failure, she had been off alcohol for two years. This abstinence was too late. She had begun drinking heavily at around the time her first marriage, to Bernard Burgess, began to fall apart after her infatuation with a fellow

Roman Catholic, the Irish co-

median Frank Carson, became too public. There was a messy divorce in 1977, She sued Burgess and he counter petitioned, alleg-ing physical violence by her. Burgess was given custody of the two children and stayed on with them at Rectory Cottage, their 17th century home at Wootton, Northampton-shire. It was a tribute both to their good nature and her power to evoke sympathy that band joined Ray Lamar, whom she finally married in

1993, at her death bed. It was obvious where legal sympathy lay in the divorce, but the loss of her home and children could not have failed to push her downwards into an alcoholic spiral. In 1982, she was arrested in Torquay To her second husband and fined £30 for being drunk

later she appeared to bounce back with a standing ovation was tragic. Finding it difficult when she was on stage before Princess Anne in Forty Years of Peace, marking the end of the second world war. In 1989 she drew great comfort from the fact that her son, Tim, won a heat of the TV contest

UBY Murray, the singer whose endearing vulnerability of organisation first in London style was an all-too and then in its south coast of the style was an all-too.

Have the she was apruptly sacked from pered, "don't patronise me." the Bernard Delfont theatre entertained the receptive constability of organisation first in London stabulary by singing some of style was an all-too and then in its south coast her hit numbers. Three years agance in London was at Brick stage and disaster. Born in even to walk without help, she gave a performance which was punctuated by her violent coughing. She could still inspire loyalty from her fans. But the fan who loyally won a heat of the TV contest shouted "We still love you, New Faces and came fifth in the final.

But it was not long before "Please," she almost whis-



Once again with feeling . . . Ruby Murray rehearsing while on tour in Leicester, spring 1955 JOHN CHILLINGS

Her background had pointed her towards both the stage and disaster. Born in Belfast, she was the third daughter and youngest child of the four children of Daniel Murray, a Scot who was born and raised in the Shankill Road (and himself died of alcoholism) and his Irish wife. At four Ruby saw, at the Belfast Empire, G H Elliott's famous Chocolate Coloured Coon act — an indication of Coon act — an indication of how different the entertainment world was then - and letermined to go on stage herself. She joined a children's choir. Bought a piano by her parents for 30 shillings, she performed at the Ulster Hall,

put on by her father, "Big Dan" Murray. In the audience was the TV producer, Richard Afton, who booked her for her first professional appearance on Irish TV. She was 12. Two years later she left school and had the usual series of dead-end jobs of the period, in a bakery, a handkerchief factory and a sweet shop. Then her mother stepped in, and accompanied her on a tour of Northern Ireland in the variety show Top Flight Stars. ef Locke and Ronnie Carroll were among the other performers in it who were ready been too badly damaged. She took to smoking 80 At 14, she appeared in the

Belfast, in one of the shows

later to become famous. summer season revue Mrs Mulligan's Hotel at Glasgow, then toured Northern Ireland — in a hired lorry — in Holiday Express. At 16, she was singing in the revue Yankee Doodle Blarney, touring Ireland and then going into the Metropolitan Music Hall in

lead singer in the BBC series | 17, 1996

Quite Contrary, Joan Regan was on the point of departure. Offered the job, Ruby Murray found her earnings had lespt from £15 to £100 a week.
Soon she was signed up to the Columbia record label. Her first release, Get Well Soon, did not catch fire, but

her second. Heartheat, jumped to number two and the third, Softly, Softly, went quickly to number one. Within three months she had sold 650,000 records and the New Musical Express. New Musical Express ac-claimed her — well ahead of Alma Cogan, who until then had been the deep-throated favourite of the day — as Britain's favourite female Through the 1950s and into

the 1980s, she was greatly in demand in musical theatre

and on television. She mar-ried Bernard Burgess of the Jones Boys harmony group while co-starring with the conjurer Tommy Cooper at a Blackpool summer show. In 1959, she toured the US with Burgess, and back home re-entered the charts with Goodbye Jimmy, Goodbye. She toured Britain for over a year in the lead role of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, with Burgess as Prince Rupert. If that was the peak, the last year must have been the deep est trough. She became visibly ill and this year spent eight months in a Torquay nursing home. The author Michael Thornton, who knew. her well, watched her adhere painfully to her non-drinking regime, but her liver had al-

alcohol. Two weeks ago she suffered fit and was moved to Torbay Hospital. It was a sadly pre-dictable end for an entertainer (and very private individual) who remained lovable to her public and family.

cigarettes a day in lieu of the

Dennis Barkey

There Richard Afton was Ruby Murray, singer, born again in the audience. His March 29, 1935; died December

Letter: Edward Blishen

ward Blishen (December 14) does not mention Edward's secondary school in London, he joined the original edito rial board of the educational journal Forum, established by Robin Pedley and myself to promote discussion around the objective of comprehensive schools. Edward contrib uted frequently to the journal from its first number, remaining a member of the board for 15 years, attending meetings and contributing to our and contributing to our he remained faithfull all his (sometimes) uproarious discussions. Indeed in 1987 he throughout the educational, as

Brian Simon writes: WL | ing a full report of an all-day Webb's fine memorial for Ed- | "demonstrative conference" Forum organised in critical opposition to the so-called strong and consistent support for comprehensive education. Soon after the publication of his path-breaking Roaring Boys (1955), and while still a struction of the system embodies at Archway county bodies in that Act, in this, reconded to the market-based reconstruction of the system embodies in London toeing the same line as his great friend, Harry Rée, who

spoke at the conference.
In Edward we have lost a true humanist, with a deep concern for the liberating power of education as a chief means of self-realisation. Life enhancing, humorous and witty, he was a true companion with a clear, unsentimental view of his ideals, to which sallantly returned contribut- well as the literary world.

Birthdays

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, soldler and former Chief of the Defence Staff, 72; Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, 43; Jules Dassin, film director 83; Christopher Fry, playwright and poet, 88; Cardinal Archbishop Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland, 66: Pamela, Lady Harlech, chairman of the English National Ballet, 61; Rosemary Leach, actress, 60; Geoffrey Lofthouse MP, deputy chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, 69; The Rt Rev Christopher Mayfield, Bishop of Manchester, 60; Lord Merlyn-Rees, former Labour Home Secretary, 75; John Mott, civil engineer, 69; Anita O'Day, jazz singer, 76; Keith Richard, still a Rolling Stone, 52; Steven Spielberg, film director and producer, ex-ecutive of Dreamworks studio, 18; Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, tennis player, 24: The

Bishop of Southwark, 63.

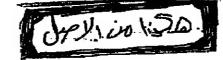
Death Notices

HOWE - On December 16th, at home in Control London as she sheaty wished, aged 97. Ruth, develod wife of Emeditione, belowed state of Joy Lation, and aunt to Phatip, Roger and Mary. Funeral service at Golden's Green Crestabrium (Wass Chapel) Hoop Lane, London NiVI 1 at 3,20p.m of Friday 20th December. Femily Sewers only, but donations in lieu. In severe of other Ampeley International or file R.S.P.C.A. 2to A.France 8, Son, 45. Lamb's Conduit Street, London WCIN 3MM.

HUGPES, Donald Jetterson, Sudsenly, on 14th December, aged 83. Musician, lacturer, writer and worker for peecs, Patter of Perick and Roselson, husband of the late Kathason, and laving grandsater, Fuzzeral 8 Fiteration Meeting, Orthograe Road, Southerngton on Friday 20th December 8t 250p.m. Indioved by cramation. Memorial event to be associated Donagon for Campaign Ageints the Arms Trade on Co-operative Fuzzeral Service, 122 8t Marry's Forad, Southerngton.

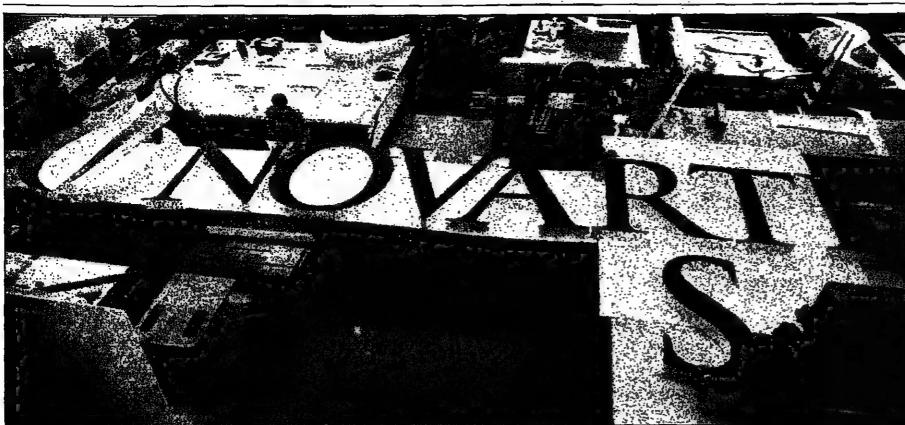
1,

Rt Rev Robert Williamson,



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian



Workers in Aesch, near Basel in Switzerland, assemble a neon sign for Novartis, the creation of a £21 billion i

Treasury committee exposes weaknesses in banking supervision and threatens Old Lady's powers

Bank berated over Barings



Nick Leeson's dealings led to

Micholas Bannistes

ON Cruickshank, di-

rector-general of Offel, acted unlawfully when he included a catch-all fair trading clause in British Tele-

com's licence, lawyers for the telecom group argued in the

High Court yesterday.

RT and Offel, the industry

repeatedly in recent months

shank has the authority to ex-

tend his powers to include a

clause prohibiting any form of anti-competitive behaviour

aboons Smithers Political Corresponden

N INFLUENTIAL committee of MPs yesterday launched highly critical attack on the Bank of England's handling of the collapse of the merchant bank Barings, even suggesting that it may have to be stripped of one of its key roles — supervision of the British banking in-

mittee also recommends that ministerial responsibility for all aspects of financial regulation and supervision — in-cluding that of the insurance industry — should be switched to the Treasury, "at the earliest opportunity".
This would replace what the
MPs consider to be the unsat-

trading powers were essential to offset a significant deregu-

lation of the group's activi-ties. But BT claimed that Mr

his authority, and sought ju-dicial review to settle the

Roger Henderson, QC for

BT, said the new clause was unlawful since it would sweep

side sections of the 1984 Tele-

communications Act and

would lead to conflict be-tween Oftel and the Office of

Fair Trading.
"There will be two police-

men with different roles and laws to apply to the same set

of circumstances," he told the

ing assurances that the posi-

tion of pensioners and em-ployees would be safe-

guarded, and that it would be

the responsibility of the inde

pendent rail pension trustees

to "determine the distribu-

one hand and the employers

He admitted that bidders

had been given information

about the position of the pen-

sion fund when they were negotiating to take over the businesses but said this was

'all open and above-board".

vinced by the Government's

explanation. Jimmy Knapp.

general secretary of main rail union the RMT, said: "We

will consider whatever action

is necessary to defend the in-

Trade unions were not con-

tion of the surplus".

senger franchises.

on the other".

BT confronts Oftel in court

Trade and Industry and the ships and communication Teasury.

The report underlines the Bank's difficulty in supervis-ing banks like Barings, as they expand from traditional merchant banking activities into volatile international security markets.
'The Barings case Illus

trated considerable weaknesses in the Bank's supervi-sory regime — in areas such as the evaluation of internal controls at banks, the intertion of existing Bank rules, lt said. It acknowledges "the pace

of change" within the finan-cial services industry, both in London and in the increase ingly complex international there should be better contact between international regula

alert people to what was a proper act and to where they stood at risk, "to where this licence bites or does not bite".

But this was not so in the case

of the new clause which was

ar too broad in its scope.

He told Lord Justice Phil

ips and Mr Justice Hooper

that it was irrelevent that BT

had accepted the controver

sial clause, together with

other licence amendments

rather than reject the propos als and trigger a Monopolie

Commission inquiry.
If Mr Cruickshank had

acted unlawfully, BT was not in a position to make his action lawful "even if it was

the most desirable thing in

undergone a major shake-up isfactory arrangement tors.

whereby responsibility for "As UK regulators have lance division, spearheaded the financial sector is split be-pointed out, there are clearly by executive director Michael

the world.

Since the Barings collapse, the Bank of England has

come the Rank's current attempts to clarify the framechannels between regulators still to be made at an internawork for its judgmental approach to supervision and urge the Bank to ensure that tional level. Unfortunately, it appears that it is not yet the first instinct of all regulators who have a concern about an the type of laxity of manage-ment illustrated at Barings institution to contact the could not still go undetected other regulators involved and not just the institution itself." under the new regime," com-mented the MPs.

But they conclude that the Bank of England needs to The MPs' conclusions are made hearly two years after Barings — Britain's oldest merchant bank — collapsed senarate its supervisory activities from its other funcwith losses of more than 2800 million, in the wake of tions "and avoid any possible weakening of its regulatory effectiveness due to its prox-imity to the day-to-day bankthe unauthorised derivatives dealings by its Singapore based trader, Nick Leeson. The committee has been taking evidence from regula-tors and bankers throughout

to market.
"Otherwise it may be that, in order to bring about the necessary cultural change, banking supervision will the Bank of England." The Bank of England is also singled out for placing too much confidence in the word

ings, which meant that mailed to identify the problems

"Given that the controls within Berings have subse-quently been exposed as woefully inadequate, this must raise critical questions over the way the Bank performs its supervision and the way it evaluates the banks for which it is responsible," the report

Government strongly adverse to the con-capt of an independent banking supervisory authority. thetic to the idea, insists that no first decision will be taken until it has completed s broader City debate on the regulation of financial

services. Last night a spokesman for the Bank of England said: "The report identifies some of the dilemmas that face regu-lators and we welcome it as a

Minister to offer building societies Mr Henderson said Parliament did not intend giving Mr Cruickshank the authority to expand his powers to become a full blooded fair trading authority, with the combined roles of policeman, judge and jury. There were parallels in the 1973 and 1980 Fair Trading Acts in which Parliament had extra protection

pected to offer building societies that become banks an extra safeguard against hostile takeovers when it publishes the draft. Building Societies Bill

Treasury minister An gela Knight hopes the addi-tional protection will placonsi protection will pla-cate the three building societies — Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock — which have threatened to shelve their stock market flots

tions and halt the payment of some 27 billion in wind-But Me Kulght will refuse to back down on her pro-posal to waive the five-year statutory protection from predators enjoyed by any converting society under the 1986 Building Societies Act, should the the new

PLCs seek to acquire another financial institution. The extra safeguard to be amounced today is aimed at protecting a fledgling bank from a "small cabal" of its own shareholders who attempt to "bump" the former society into acceptgage brokers and loan

within the first few days of lotation, force the waiver of protection and then aunch a taktover bid. Ms Knight proposes to tackle this by increasing the level of votes needed to with 10 per cent of stock will still be able to demand an extraordinary general

whether the extra safe-

guard will be sufficient to leter the three building their boycott remains ques Yesterday, they indicated

that a softening on the 10 per cent rule for share-holders would not be

Andy Kuipers, assistant general manager of North-ern Rock, said the society would welcome any move that would prevent a small group of shareholders hold-ing the newly formed bank to ransom. But Northern Rock wanted to see the proposals in full before Alliance & Leicester.

whose members last week voted overwhelmingly in pressed a similar view, while a Woolwich spok woman said the society would look closely at the Treasury's definition of a financial institution. It is thought societies might be allowed to acquire mort-

books with impunity. Halifax, whose 210 billion conversion is also scheduled for next year, has already effectively waived its protection by planning the flotation of an existing company in the group. Spokesman Gary Marsh said the society would nevertheless watch

the bill from the sidelines. The wrangle between Ms Knight and the societies may become scademic, any-way. The chances of the bill before the general election are put at 50:50 by many ob-

Notebook

Equal before the company law



Mark Milner

NEVITABLY there will be those who will find it irritating to have Ernest Saunders again parading his claims of innocence in the Guinness affair. There will be others who will be concerned that Mr Saunders is able to do so on the back of another So on the back of another European ruling, this time from the Court of Human Rights.

The first thing to note is

the court's argument that, at Mr Saunders's trial, the prosecution believed the evidence obtained by Depart-ment of Trade and Industry Inspectors, in breach of Mr Saunders right to silence,

would help its case.

That is some way from Mr Saunders's claim that without that evidence he would not have been convicted. In this context it is worth remember-ing that the court decided not to award Mr Saunders com-pensation and ruled that its findings alone constituted 'sufficient just satisfaction". The second thing is that the

court's decision must be the right one. There cannot be an argument that someone sus-pected of offences under the Companies Act should in some way have fewer rights than another person allegedly in contravention of another

part of the legal code.

It is simply not enough to suggest that, for example, corporate fraud is more complex than other crimes and that those suspected of such frauds should therefore be

As a result of the court ruling, the legal authorities in Britain will have to look at the framework of corporate regulation and related criminal prosecutions. Presumably the DTI will still be able to appoint inspectors; though any evidence resulting from their enquiries is unlikely to be used in subsequent crimihal proceedings without run-ning into the Saunders

In immediate, practical. terms the more difficult issue, however, is likely to be whether or not the decision will have implications for the way in which the Serious Fraud Office carries out its investigations. The SFO be-lieves its procedures will not have to change. Others are

There may well be wider implications. Yesterday's ruling is likely to reopen the long-running debate into how the legal system copes with complex white collar offences. Are they best subject to the full majesty of the criminal law or a less formal regime regulators, expert tribunals, fines, suspension or expul-sion from financial or corpo-rate posts — which would also carry a lesser burden of

The latter approach has its attractions. It would certainly be more pragmatic and might

well be more effective in

Whether it would satisfy the dictum that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done is less obvious. Whatever its faults, the jury system is still a reasonable defence against rhitrary process.

Supervisory snag

HE Treasury Select com-mittee report into the regulatory aspects of the collapse of Barings is clearly a yellow card for the Bank of ngland. The committee has effectively put it on notice that another flasco and the pressure to remove the Bank's supervisory role be well nigh irresistible.

cerned that the nature of the Bank's operations means that as "cheer leader" to the City it may be too close to the institutions that it is meant to supervise. It is also worried that, in addition to the inherent risk of "regulatory cap-ture", the Bank has actually been very slow in learning the lessons of past regulatory imperfections, despite prom

ises to sharpen up its act.
The Bank itself argues that there is no inherent contradiction between its place as the UK's central bank, with sition within the UK banking system that entalls, and its supervisory role. Indeed, the Bank argues that the knowledge and expertise gained in one area helps it carry out its functions in the other.

Clearly that is an argument which must carry some weight. But it is not sufficient to carry the day completely. A supervisory body, separate from the Bank of England, would still be able to recruit those with a close practical Bank itself, if stripped of its regulatory role, would be able to recruit staff with an understanding of supervisory

The snag for supporters of such radical reform is the question of where then to put the responsibility for supervision. One answer would be to bring it within the orbit of the Treasury. The Treasury itself might not object, but would a Chancellor of the Exchequer the offing - really want to risk finding himself or herself in the political firing line over a failure of banking

Such difficulties are not insurmountable, however, and would look even less so in the fact which was no doubt apfore yesterday's report,

Santa Scrooge

THE Swedish central bank is such a Scrooge. Yesterday it cut its interest rates for only the 25th time this year (yes, 25th; yes, this year) then party pooped by pointing out that this would be the last one — well, at least the pointing of the last one — well, at least the state of the last one — well, at least the state of the last one — well, at least the state of the last one — well, at least the state of the last one — well, at least the state of the last one — well at least the state of the last one — well at least the state of the last one — well at least the state of the last one — well at least the state of the last one — well at least Federal Reserve's cautious

Fund managers get behind

target company to launch its defence document before deciding.

were unable to achieve

reasonable conversations

with them. M&G and Britan-

Mr Whalley said acquisi-

tion of Newman Tonks would create an international hard-

lion, with Newman Tonks's

nic must have become very

Amouncing the bid, Jeff
Whalley, FKI's chairman,
said the pair's support was
very significant.
"We did try very hard to
meet Newman Tonks on a
friendly basis but even with KI, the fast expanding engineering group, was in the almost unprecedented position yesterday of securing the support of two leading fund managers on the day it launched a hostile £195.7 million bid for architectural and some prodding from M&G we

building products supplier Newman Tonks. FKI said it already had the support of M&G and Britan-nic Assurance, two of Newman Tonks's institutional shareholders, who together own 13.37 per cent of shares

in the target company.

Ware business with a turnover of more than 2500 milmore dramatic because M&G — which is Newman Tonks's British and European largest shareholder — and businesses complementing Britannic are seen as two of FKPs US activities.

the most conservative City in-stitutions, and generally back our own performance, New-incumbent managements man Tonks has clearly failed to against hostile bids.

It is normal practice for in
am confident that its results against hostile bids. stitutions at least to wait for a | can be significantly improved."

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

France 8,4960

Germany 2.5065 Greece 398.50 Hong Kong 12.59 India 59.55

Australie 2.04 Australie 17.62 Belgium 51.59 Canada 2.2265 Oyprus 6.7555 Denmark 7.52

frustrated.

Italy 2,496
Maits 0.5950
Nettlerlands 2,8150
Netw Zesland 2,2975
Norway 10,49
Portugal 253,70
Saudi Arabia 6,2150
USA 1,6295

He said a licence should Oftel insisted that new fair Call for investigation into rail News in brief

pension 'highway robbery'

issue.

High Court.

Political Correspondent

ABOUR demanded urgent clarification from the Government last night of plans for the £500 million surplus from the British Rail pension fund, after claims that the money is to be shared among new railway operators as a privatisation "sweetener".

Trade unions joined the calls for an independent investigation as they branded the revelation "highway rob-bery", and accused the Government of breaking its promises that the £10.5 billion British Rail pension fund would not be adversely af-

fected by privatisation. The Save Our Railways campaign group claimed that, although existing pensions were safe, there was nothing to prevent privatised rail companies from using the surplus - recently valued by the Government Actuary at £516 million — to take a holiday on pensions contribu-

Shadow transport secretary Andrew Smith wrote to terests of pensioners, de-Transport Secretary Sir ferred pensioners and active

the world", he said.

Public finances

back in the red After a surprising move into surplus in October, the Gov ernment's finances were back in the red again last month justifying the cautious ap-proach to tax cuts taken by

He also sought confirmathe Chancellor, Kenneth tion that the share and size of Clarke, in the Budget. the surplus were not reflected Total government borrow ing in November was £2.6 billion — slightly better than in the prices offered by the operators when they were nepredicted by many City anagotiating to take over the pasysts. This brings the accumu Sir George sought to play down fears by saying that any lated deficit for the year to £13.9 billion, including the surplus would be "shared berevenues from the privatisatween the pensioners on the tion programme, £8.5 billion

lower than this time last year. Small firms shed jobs The small business sector.

trumpeted as the main source of new jobs by the Government, has a dismal record, ac cording to research by the Employment Policy Institute. belly-up within three years and many of the survivors have been shedding jobs rather than growing through out the 1990s.

Fairey bids for rival Fairey, the electronic and engineering products group, has

launched a £\$1.1 million bid for rival components maker Burnfield, which has rejected the bid. Burnfield shares rose 35%p to 135%p on the news, against Fairey's 1350 cash bid and 145.90 cash-andshares bid, while Fairey shares closed 3½p lower at

specifically prevented the Di-rector-General of Fair Trad-

ing from taking such action. He insisted that Mr Cruick-

shank's proposal to set up an advisory committee was also

irrelevent because at the end

of the day the law laid down that the Oftel director general

had to take any decisions.

The review continues.

North Sea free for-all After 35 years of controlling where oil companies can explore in the North Sea, the Government yesterday declared open season on un-tapped areas to promote new drilling and slow an expected decline in production. "At this stage ... it would seem best to ask them [companies] where they see the best prosnects." Lord Fraser, Britain's energy minister, said.

Ross in £44m buy-out United Biscuits has sold Ross Vegetable Products, its frozen vegetables business, to a management buy-out team for

Lloyds staff to strike Staff at Lloyds-TSB are to strike on Christmas Eve, the banking and finance union Bifu said, over the bank's plans to keep branches open until 4.30pm that afternoon.

ing a hostile takeover hid shortly after conversion. Under carlier proposals, a group of shareholders owning 10 per cent or more of the stock could force the new PLC to waive its fiveyear protection. The societies fear an institution will snap up 10 per cent of the stock

enforce the waiver of pro-tection. However, under

Saunders peddles tale of innocence

rubs raw nerve of Britain's touchy relationship with the European Court of **Human Rights**

HERE was a time when Ernest Saunders sold toiletries, baby milk and a dark stout beer whose name has become a synonym for one of the biggest financial scandals in British history: Guinness.

But for the past seven years Mr Saunders has been selling just one product - his own innocence. Like the central character in Tom Wolfe's novel Bonfire of the Vanities, Mr Saunders has become "a career defendant".

By chance, Mr Saunders's final appeal in his quest for justice, to the European Court of Human Rights in Stras-bourg, touched yet another raw nerve in the relationship between the UK and Europe's

supranational institutions.
The success of the Saunders appeal came after the court was presented with two contrasting interpretations of a a case that was decided in Strasbourg nearly four years

Jean-Gustave Funke, a German living in France, was in-terrogated for possible exchange-control offences by the French Customs. The officials demanded he produce documents, he refused, the French authorities fined him daily and finally put a charge on his house.

In February 1983, 13 years after the initial inquiry and six years after Mr Funke's death, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the French had violated his human rights by insisting he produce the evidence required to mount a case

This was held to be in breach of Article Six of Europe's Human Rights Conthe Guinness trial judge's vention. Enthusiasts for statement that two of the greater European integration have embraced Funke as the equivalent of the Miranda precedent in the United States; to them, Article Six is set to become Europe's answer to the Fifth Amend-

The British government took a different view, how ever. Sidney Kentridge QC, the UK advocate, told the court during the Saunders hearing: "The Funke case arose in a very different con-

Nevertheless, Article Six in July 1988) to the court after was the basis of Mr Saun- ruling in May that year, by 14 ders's last attempt to remove what his counsel, Michael Be- | violation of Article Six.

THE QUEST/Ruling | loff QC, told the court was

Between February 10 and May 6, 1987, Mr Saunders was interviewed nine times by De-partment of Trade and Induspartment of Trade and Indus-try inspectors investigating allegations that an illegal share-support operation took place during the takeover battle, worth a final sc.? billion, waged by Guin-ness for the Scottish whisky group Distillers (DCL). Under British Law Mr

Under British law, Mr Saunders had no right of silence during those inter-views. Had he refused to answer any questions or pro-duce documents, he would have committed a criminal offence.

He went on trial in 1990, on 15 counts, including eight of false accounting two of theft and several of conspiracy. and was convicted in August that year on 12 counts. His five-year sentence was halved in May 1991 by the Court of Appeal after it heard medical evidence he was suffering from pre-senile dementia. He was released after serving 10 months in an open prison. His counsel claimed the

compulsory interviews (seven of which were admitted as evidence) were crucial to the Crown's success in obtaining conviction against him. The Crown told the court that this was nonsense. Mr Saunders, did not admit during the interviews with the inspectors nor in the witness box any involvement in propping up

Guinness shares, it said.
The judges rejected that claim yesterday, pointing out that if the DTI evidence had not been helpful to the prosecution, it would not have spent three days reading extracts to the Guinness trial

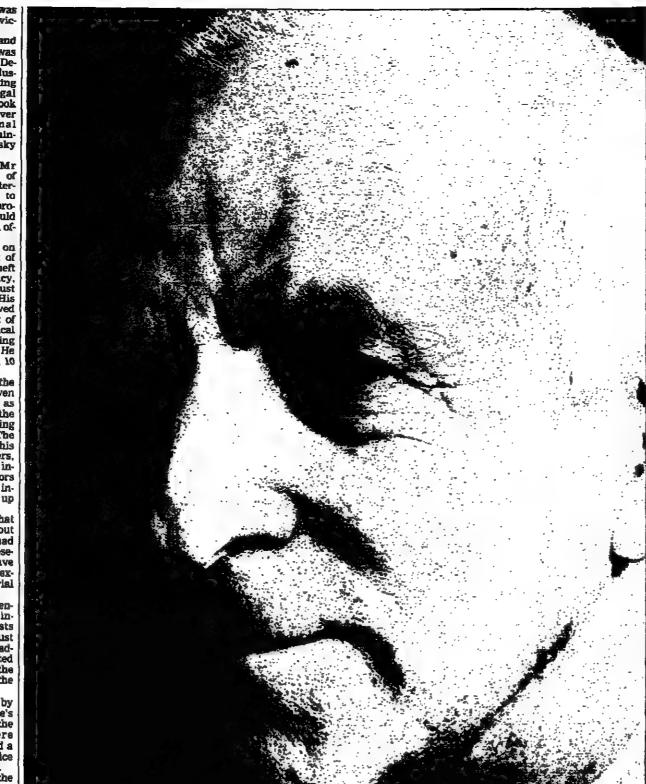
jury.
"The fact that such extensive use was made of the in-terviews strongly suggests that the prosecution must have believed that the read-ing of the transcripts assisted their case in establishing the applicant's dishonesty,' Strasbourg judges said. That view was supported by

seven interviews were capable of being considered a "confession" under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act The UK had claimed the Funke case did not rule out the use of evidence acquired under compulsion, and won some support from the Euroean Commission on Human

evidence. In September 1994, the commission brought the case first raised by Mr Saunders votes to one, there had been

Rights, which declined to sug-

gest a blanket ban on such



I I do feel myself to be an innocent man. I never considered giving up this battle. This is not a question of compensation. This is a matter of principle; vindication of my name is sufficient.

Fraud busters deprived of key weapon

into chaos yesterdayby the European Court of Human Rights' ruling backing for-mer Guinness chief Ernest Saunders.

Special "talk-or-else" powers dating back more than 100 years will have to

negates suspects' right to silence, which is enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

That means the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry, insolvency experts and possibly fraud investiga-tors will lose their chief weapon in the battle

against fraud. Duncan Aldred of the law firm Cameron Markby Hewitt said: "It is a challenge to the system. The whole direction will have to be rethought."

The Department of Trade and Industry said there were 340 cases going through the UK courts where some evidence ob-tained had been gained through the use of comput-sion. The vast majority of these cases relate to com-pany insolvency, but the Strasbourg judgment may also affect insolvency law. Some trials based on compulsory testimony may have to be dropped.

The Government must act ouickly to bring British law into line with Article Six of the convention. The DTI said all options would be considered, including the possibility of legisla-tion. Only if the Government reclassifies serious fraud as a national security lesne will it be able to duck

RITAIN'S system for prosecuting serious white-collar crime was thrown SFO said last night that its SFO said last night that its powers were different to those used by DTI inspectors, allowing it only in special circumstances to use in court evidence gath-

ered under compulsion. But, with the court sig-nalling its intention to strengthen Article Six into The Strasbourg judges have effectively banned the use in court of evidence gathered under threat of punishment for failure to strip suspects of their rights against sold instance. answer, arguing that this rights against self-incrimination will be struck down in Strasbourg.

The Government can retain the rights of DTI inspectors to compet witnesses to give evidence— which dates back at least until the middle of last century, when the courts up-



held obligations on bank-rupts to explain their conduct without recourse to a right of silence. But such evidence would not be able to be used against defen-

dants in court This would allow DTI in-spectors and insolvency officials to pursue their primary job of discovering what has actually occurred

Black beer and black arts serve as symbols of excess

THE AFFAIR/Wall

Street broker in disgrace spilled beans over share rigging in bid battle for Distillers

T WAS THE day before yesterday: 1985. Most of the furniture of that era — Hilda Thatcher in No 10, Ronnie Reagan in the White House — has been tidied away. Except for one piece: Guinness, the tap that will not stop dripping.

Eleven years since the now forgotten Jimmy Gulliver, head of Argyll, the super-market group Safeway, began trying to take over the old Scotch drinks group Distillers (DCL), Guinness rumbles on, a metaphor for financial scandal, social prejudice, a socalled 'age of excess', and the Back then, Guinness meant | an agreed bid from Guinness.

Anthony Parnes and Jack Lyons

one thing; a black beer originating in London markets (hence porter), which had emigrated to Ireland, eventually finding fans in outposts of the British Empire.

But times were changing throughout British industry and Guinness's family owners had felt the chill wind of the first recession; anxious about falling sales they engaged the marketing whizzkid Ernest Saunders. He may not have fitted the

patrician Guinness style, but in the atmosphere of the 1980s that was a recommendation.

Already victorious in the
battle for whisky-maker Beli,
Mr Saunders was stalking bigger prey. And Mr Gulli-ver's tilt at DCL gave him the opening he needed. Mr Saunders — still seen in

the industry as an arch wheeler-dealer — was no more typical of Distillers' style than he had been of the Guinness one. But faced with the prospect of being taken over by a mere grocer, DCL management swallowed its pride and sought salvation in

The Guinness defendants during their trial (from left): Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson,

dustry made the whole thing possible. Previously a Tartan Curtain had effectively protected Scottish firms against predatory activity. But such interventionist doctrine was out of favour and the DTI made it clear to DCL there would be no help from the Monopolies Commission.

The new year, 1986, dawned with a three-way fight. Mr Gulliver bidding for Distill-ers: Distillers fighting off Mr Gulliver, and Mr Saunders fighting Mr Gulliver with nelp from Distillers. It was close. The bidding went to £2.7 billion. Victory for Guinness was by no means certain, hanging on a thread until the last moment. The fight was of the dirtiest anyone could remember. And key to the battle was the respective values of three sets of shares: Distillers, Guinness and Mr

Gulliver's Argyll.

And it was the alleged manipulation and inflation of Guinness shares by an unlawful share support operation

ironically, given its later that was to trigger what has central role in the case, the now been a decade-long crimi-Department of Trade and In- nal affair. Hardly had Mr umph than events across the Atlantic were conspiring to destroy him.
The undoubted star of mid-

1980s Wall Street was an arbi-trageur called Ivan Boesky. His book on share choosing was a best-seller. Admirers talked breathlessly of his complex mathematical system for choosing investments But America's fearsome financial regulator, the Securi-ties and Exchange Commission, was sceptical and its inquiries proved its suspi-cions: Boesky's 'system' was the oldest in the book, inside information.

to the SEC. Boesky mentioned in passing that he had bee involved in share support during the Guinness bid. Under an information-sharing agreement, the SEC alerted the British authori ties. On December 1 1986 two DTI inspectors arrived at the office of Ernest Saunders. The landslide had started. Mr Saunders was ques

tioned by the DTI, dismissed by Guinness, charged with and, in 1990, convicted of running an illegal share-rigging operation during the hid, and But Guinness would not go

away. In February 1992 the Serious Fraud Office dropped charges against the financier Roger Seelig, and the stock-broker, David Mayhew. Later that month the trial of the financier Lord Spens and Mr Seelig (on different charges) collapsed. In February 1993, an American lawyer, Thomas Ward, was acquitted on Guinness charges.
The affair was increasingly

looking less like a triumphan investigation and punishment of wrongdoing than a fiasco — a view unaltered by Mr Saunders' victory COURTROOM BLUSTRATOR: PRISCRIA COLEMAN | Vesterday.



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Per let Elikus (194) depot out the school to it musts. Also 6 seems (like 1937) has the rest (1856,37). Interpress Cash pross (1951 to City, 1961 to

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ps. — Mad under unity in Prices mechanic confess planged which is increased (19.3% for UNIT) for the recorded in Prices, updated possess and other are maked to the confession of prices produced under a maked to the confession of confession of prices produced under a maked of confession of confes

Wakeham lords it

BHB critics hit for six at annual forum says Chris Hawkins

S Tristram Ricketts rose to open the in-nings for the British Horseracing Board at their annual forum in London

their annual forum in London yesterday the lights in the lecture theatre of the Royal Geographical Society dimmed. It seemed highly appropriate to those preparing themselves for a peroration about the gloom enveloping racing, but Ricketts, the BHB's chief executive, is obviously good at batting in bad light. at batting in bad light. Crisis — what crisis? was

the theme of his speech. Attendances were up, sponsorship was up, owners were up, even prize money was up -so what was all this talk about BHB's lack of leader-

ship and activity?
Matthew McCloy, chairman of the industry committee, came in at number two and played a similar breesy knock.

A financial plan, which some said did not exist and had never even been thought about, was in place and

"every organisation had been part of its development and had signed up to it." Precisely the method by which the 28 points agreed will be implemented has yet to be decided but, said Mc-Cloy, "they will be put in order of priority with targets to be met both in terms of time and money."

time and money." Presumably, the top priority is prize money, but no ac-tual figure about the amount racing needs was mentioned, although the stated aim was that the owner of a horse winning three low grade races

pool would need to be doubled to something like £116

million Why, Savill asked, when racing needed this sort of money did the board (in its rejected Budget submission to the Chancellor) ask for a mere .75 per cent of General Betting Duty to be diverted to the Levy when this would only increase prize money by 40 per cent?

At this, Lord Wakeham, the BHB's chairman, strode to the wicket and, rather like the great Lord Ted hooking diadainfully, told a fired-up Savill to sit down and listen to

vili to sit down and listen to the answer.

Savili was told curtly that the submission to the Government concerned itself with what was practically possible and that people from the Cayman Islands (Savill's place of abode) were not in a strong position to dictate position to dictate.

At that, Sir Eric Parker, captain of the Racehorse Owners' team, took Savill off and replaced him with Lady Burnham, but she was unable to dent Wakeham's defence. She expressed doubts about whether the chairman was showing enough leadership, but was told that this was not

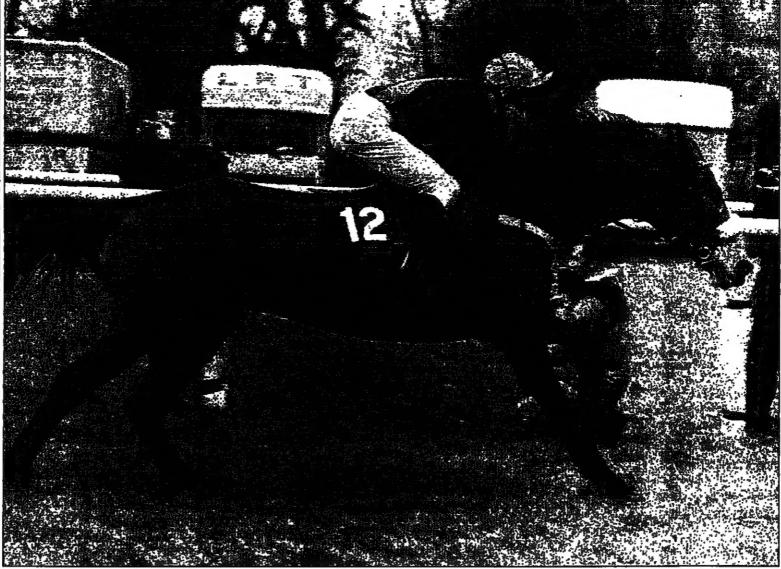
the autocratic Jockey Club but rule by consensus.

Peter Cundell of the
National Trainers' Federation briefly got a little life out of a dead wicket by complaining that 17 of the country's 59

racecourses were exploiting owners by contributing peanuts to the prize money.

"Some of them are a disgrace and don't deserve to be kept open," he said, although he would not name names. But, as indicated by Wakeham in his Gimcrack speech, course closures are not thought likely and all will continue to be supported in

Then enter Peter Savill, of the Racehorse Owners' Association, to bowl the first bouncer. His point was that the financial strategy was contradictory. For the owner to break even the prize money. to break even the prize money | scored their opponents.



Rough Quest proves his King George fitness

Ken Oliver ROUGH QUEST was the star attraction at Folkestone yesterday and the Grand National winner turned on the style with a victory in a novice

It was his first race of the season and he now heads Rot for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. Terry Casey, the gelding's trainer, said: "I

needed to get a race into him. This will have put him

right for Kempton."
Widely ignored in the betting ring, easing from 3-1 to 5-1, Rough Quest was more than 30 lengths off the lead-ers at one stage as Mick Fitzgerald rode a patient Rough Quest made his

way through the field on the final circuit and looked to have the measure of Des tin d'Estruval at the final was really frustrated when flight, but a mistake Haydock was called off last handed the advantage back

Saturday as we badly to his main rival. He had | handicapped. He'll have | well to get up close home and score by half a length Fitzgerald joked afterwards: "I was worried I was getting there too soon so one might have thought

that I planned that mistake."

George, but Fitzgerald is looking forward to the Grand National, adding: replaced by Norman Wil-People said he won at Ain-tree because he was so well Wren Handicap Hurdle.

two lengths to make up on much more weight this the King George after Banthe run-in, but responded time, but with this horse gor, at least that is the plan that really doesn't worry

Hill's and Ladbrokes both cut Rough Quest to 5-1 from 6-1 for the King George, with One Man 4-6. Nahthen Lad, another nistake."

King George probable, has a warm-up over the smaller look beyond the King obstacles at Bangor this afternoon, but his usual rider Warren Marston is

"Nahthen Lad will go for today," said trainer Jenny Pitman. "The horse is well and is far enough forward." Marston, Pitman's stable jockey, who rode Nahthen Lad in his six races last term, which included four wins and two seconds, will not be renewing his associ-

ation the seven-year-old.
"Norman Williamson has the ride tomorrow and I should think he will ride him at Kempton," Mrs Pit-man added.

Sport in brief

Agassi set for Brazil

NDRE AGASSI, anxious to revive his formafter a disappointing year, yesterday volunteered to play in the first round of the Davis Cup in Brazil in February. "It's intense com-petition and I need it." he said. The United States team have not been named but Pete Sampras, the world No. 1, has already declined to play in the first round.

Equestrianism

John Whitaker, Britain's only winner in this season's Volvo World Cup qualifier series, is determined to win Saturday's qualifler and the Grand Prix which climaxes the five-day London Olympia championship which starts today. Whi-taker, 41 and top Briton in the world individual rankings, has never won those prizes. Olympia's show is celebrating its 25th year with a UK record prize-fund of £220,000.

Birmingham will be England's representatives in the first World Citles Indoor Championship at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on January 11-12 writes Pat Rowley. That week-end the Midlands' two leading clubs will be playing in the first national rounds of the English Indoor Championship, so Birmingham will lose several of their best players. They have been drawn against Copenhagen, Madrid and Vienna. Glasgow will meet Canberra, Johannes-burg and New York.

Sailing

Plans to build the America's Cup base in downtown Auck-land could be delayed for six months by Maori objectors, writes Bob Fisher in Auck-land. The Ngai Taiki Tamaki Tribal Trust, a Maori group which claims prior owner ship of the sea-bed, has objected to the development of the Viaduct Easin to house the challenging syndicates. Time is short: work will take 22 months and the Basin has to be open by December 1998.

Bangor runners and riders with form guide

→ Denotes bilaters. Goby: Good Figures in brackets after horse's maps dancin days show blact H.H. colling Jackpet & Placepots First els coost. 12.30 MARSEEM NOVICES SELLING MURBLE SE SE CLOSE OPSO ADMINAL'S CURET (30) W Gley 4-11-5 8-57FIR AL WELLAL (8) J Jenkins 4-11-5 SA PASTERS GOLD (7) IN Unity 4-11-5 24/25-03 BOOLAN TERRETE (12) K BEND 5-11-6 ISS-DOL LIKE STREET BLUES (12) C Brooks 5-11-No. 100 TONAT BOOLAND (20) S-1-1-6 057-05 LIME STREAM RAINES (TS) C BYOME 5-11-5
055-05 SHELEY FACE (12) R Rodges 4-11-5
1-5 SHELEY FACE (12) R Rodges 4-11-5
1-5 SHELEY FACE (12) R Rodges 4-11-5
1-6 SHELEY GENERAL (13) 3 Meditor 4-11-0
10 HAPPELL AGAIN (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-0
10 CAPPELL AGAIN (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-0
10 CAPPELL AGAIN (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
10 SHELEY GENERAL (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
11 SHELEY GENERAL (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
12 SHELEY GENERAL (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
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16 SHELEY GENERAL (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
16 SHELEY GENERAL (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
17 SHELEY GENERAL (20) 3 Meditor 4-11-5
18 SHELE A P MaCay * TOP PORM TIPS: Lime Street Street S, Rettle 7, Hight Seat S Bettings 7-7 Lime Street Bluce, 4-1 D'inann, 9-2 Night Soni, 6-1 Rattie, 8-1 Facthi Gold, 14-1 Admira*s Gleet

TI. HELENS FORD RUPEARS CRIAIN 200 47 119/46 C4,366

115-12 AROUND THE GALE (25) (C) (EF) D Gandolio 5-11-6

5-144 DECYROND (83) (D) M Pro 5-11-6

5-23-13 NASORYY FUTURE (19) J O Ned 5-11-6

1003-1 CHEPPED OUT (16) Moran Technolor 6-11-0

5-21-13 CARRIVAL (13) N Henderich 5-11-0

115-1-6 SARGEMENT (16) N Les 5-11-0

115-1-6 MACCAROND (16) R Les 5-11-0

(6P82) VALLEY CARRION (246) J O Neft 6-11-0 TOP PORM TIPS: Around The Gale 10, Houghly Palers S, Chipped Out 7 Cottley 4-5 Around The Gale, 9-2 Decycorg, 6-1 Naughty Fears, Valley Garden, 8-1 Chipped Ost, 19-1 Gardeni

1.00 ST. HELENS FOND HOVICES CHASE 24: 41 110yds 24,566

p big! Cid-Still IMPRIND CHVTN Not jump wolk, headway Sth, never traditied leaders, 4th of 18, 25 behind Sparky Ge; hercastic fin at non-cik, Gid! herritrible Drought down his, behind Backhoose Boy (Newbury 2m 4f cit, Gid). scal Tonie S, Freddie Mech 7 Stationers, 14-1 Year Marc. 7-2 Freedom Much. B-2 Northern Lect, 5-1 Call My Queet, 6-4 Sun Surfer, 7 man

PORMS CONDER - GENERAL TONGER Has up, hendway for, had diver not, fan an well, best Karer GR, YES Mar jane 15th ballot on Chepatow 2m acp hat. SQ Mar jane 15th ballot on Chepatow 2m acp hat. SQ MacControl But Che Chepat hin of his first, first on the months of the state of the CALL MY QUESTI Crased leaver, led 7th to last, seated to question, 2nd of 5, 100 behinder 7th V hip half, Golfon).

SUM SUMPRISE Flyinicrof line and, never over leaders, 6th of 9, 171 behind Subanah (Warwick

SUM SUMPRISE Flyinicrof line and, never over leaders, 6th of 9, 171 behind Subanah (Warwick) Call Left and Commission Metal up, behand from 5th, based off, lesd of & distance behind Codongold (Chapaton 3m 4

2.00 Challe richards ealt whisky handicap chase 4m of E4,168

Results

FOLKESTONE

12.30 (doss of 110yda Milla): 1, 2003-12.30 (doss of 110yda Milla): 1, Wayfarara May (everts by) 3, Fontannys (11-2), 4 ran 61 1, 12 (reality) Tyle: 15 50 Dust F-12.31 Ces 5 cm²

1,00 (Sm If Ch): 1, BALLY CLOYER, N

EANGOR 101 201 EXETER 102 202 CATTERICK 103 203

TOP FORM TUPS: Keep It Zipped 8, Hely Sting 7, Step The Waller 6 they 7-2 Holy Sting, 4-1 Rocky Park, 8-2 Knop It Zipped, 5-1 Step The Waller, 5-1 Front Line, 6-1 FORM COVERT - BICLY STREM Hengered and bringful down lead approaching 7th in rach with by by House (Marint Resen Sa of 116/4) has colored to the part of the part of 11, 25 behind Bullyen Boy (Souther 2s. 71 116/4s; buy c.), Gd. (SSEP IT 2SPPEC), Loss place 7th, no beadway from 15th, 4th of 8, 24 behind Feload Onto (Forthwell 2m 2f 116/4s may ch, Gd. STOP TEST WALL Site Lyd 4th to harp out, one pace, 3rd of 7, 51 behind Christman Gorse (Warwick 2m 2f bop.

-	10 200	COAT COMBITIONAL JOCICEYS' HAMBICAL HUMBL	E 2m 11 C2,040
	6/32104-	MEYER SO BLUE (370) P Bradley 5-11-10	DJ Karangh
	1124-65	KADARI (7) (CD) W City 7-11-0	
	4274-E	SCHNOZZLE (9) K Bridgester 5-11-6	
	063136-	SHEEP STEALER (2022) R Peacock 8-11-4	
•		QLOWING PATR (8) (D) R Hodges 5-11-4	Forth (4)
	044300-F	ALASKAM HERR (7) A Streeter 5-11-2	LAmel
		KENTAVI (7) T Downelly 8-10-15	G Norm
1		COUNTRY WESSTREE, (12) 5 Does 5-10-7	D Pertit
	605-000	MIYA (B) D McCatn 4-10-4	D Watel
1	SOUGE P	TANGO MAN (9) R Price 4-10-0	T Describe

3.00 CLEYD RANDICAP CRASE 214 N 110yds CADES 432-17 PANESTAN CARRES 200 49 170796 CALCAS 17154-0 SOLAN (877) (D) C Perior 7-17-9 522-7-92 SEALLY A (RASCAL (112) (CD) D (Sentolit) 9-17-0 SILPHP - DOLANOS (3770) (D) T Celeberti 9-10-13 SILPHP - DOLANOS (3770) (D) W Williamon 7-10-9 SILPHP - DOLANOS (3710) (Mrs S Lauryman 3-10-9 SILPHP - DOLANOS (3710) (Mrs S Lauryman 3-10-9 SILPHP - TRIBLAL SILPHP (418) (D) O MicCon 11-10-8 TOP FORES TIPE: Peols Errand S, Banky A Rassad 7, Mine's An Ace 6

(Sc). Michieff Ani Acte: Held up, cheand whener from 19th, no impression, 2nd of 6, 1% behind Zuerbech Spiri (Plumpton 2m 3 hap ch, Gd-Fm). SCEBAL Ren ve from 4 cd, not pace to challenge, 3rd of 6, 1th behind Rogal Romper (Carliale 2m lasp ch

3.30 VELLOW COLLAR INTERMEDIATE OFFICIAL THE FLAT 24: 11 CLASS YELLOW COLLAR MYTHINGULAR CONTROL OF MY HAT 20

1 MIDAS (24) (D) K Burks 5-11-1

(I)-(CASHEL CHAY (25) Mrs P Bickerton 6-11-4

CAASHIG THE MOONE G Bailing 4-11-4

(I)-DAACCOM RAHAMEN (287) Mrs 9 Milcon 5-11-4

GOWER-SLANE P BOWN 4-11-4 GOWER-SLAND P BOWER - 11-4

L SCORMER PERMIT (1839 B PROCES - 11-4

L SCORMER PERMIT (1849 B PROCES - 11-4

L SCORMER PERMIT (1849 J Markins 4-11-4

THE CRUPPY BOY (189 J Markins 4-11-4

WATTER FORT (64) J O'Neil 4-11-4

WATTER FORT (64) J O'Neil 4-11-1

GALLENGEOMACE (47) B Carabidge 4-10-13

GUERCESOMACE (47) B Carabidge 4-10-13

BIRSTRESS TUDOR (44) S Medor 5-10-13

BIRSTRESS TUDOR (44) S Medor 5-10-13

P3: Scaring Pudigree 5, Hildes 7, Califodee 6 Bestings 5-2 Scorous Peoligroe, 5-1 Mates, 5-1 Californion, 3-1 Water Poet, 12-1 Cheefing The Moon, The Croppy Boy, Mixtures Tudor.

| Walliamson (7-4 tav); 2, Suantious MR (3-1); 3, Gioca Mirago (9-1); 10 ran, 25, 35 (Venetin Williams) Tole; 52, 77; 51, 30, 55 40, 57 40 Dust F. 514,50, 65F: 520,45. Tricast 219 54 Tric, 547,90 1,30 (2m Sr 110yda Midbel 1, Asiast SORT H. D. Siridywater (7-2); 2, Rura Spread (13-2); 3, Rueckson Bridge (25-1); 1-1 try Ef Foddlic, 14 781, 4, 4 (6 McCourt) Tole 5, 50, 52, 70, 51,50, 510, 10, 50,51 Tole 5, 50, 52, 70, 51,50, 510, 10, 50,51 Tole 5, 50,57; 128,94 Tricast 2477-59.
2,00 (3m Sr 128,94 Tricast 2477-59.
2,00 (3m Sr 128,94 Tricast 2477-59. Total 55 80; C 70; F1:00; F1:00; F1:00; C 100; C 10 MUSSELBURQH 12.20 (2m 4F Holis) 1, DEVEST WISSLY, R Garrier, 16-5 (av); 2, Smolesek (6-5); 3, Nitsad (16-1); 6 ren. Ns. 18, (Nr Hamscool) Tote: C1,90; C1.00, E1.20. Deal F. C1.70. CSF 52.08.

Total: 19.30: 12.00, 15.50. Dual F: 124.90. CSF: (10-11 law): 2, Secretal Annay (7-1): 3, 150.71.

3.30 (2m 1f 110yde Fiel): 1, GMBDC, N (MBBC): 1, 17.50. Castom Lady (10-1): 9 zm. 3, 1. (P Montodm) Total: 12.50. (12.01 law): 19.50. CSF: 25.11. Tricest: 150.00. Total: 12.50. (12.01 law): 19.50. CSF: 25.11. Tricest: 150.00. 1105: 150.00. Total: 10.50. CSF: 25.11. Tricest: 150.00. 1105: 150.00. Total: 10.50. CSF: 25.11. Tricest: 150.00. 1105: 150.00. CSF: 25.11. Tricest: 150.00. CSF: 25.00. 2.60 (ftm Ch): 1, CARDENDER, 8 Storey (5-2): 2, Rapid Mover (4-1): 3, Jedicki Field (11-10 tw), 4 ma, 1, 8, (J Barcley) Tota: (2.80 Dual F. 5530, CSF: 210-4). 10°S, M Moloney (6-4); 2, Mars Warrior (2.08. (2.08. (a) 1. MEDDOM MALIGNA, 8. Supple (100-30), 2. Plagerbill (7-1); 3. Miss Lamplight (7-1). 3-1 fev Corporal (Circuscod. 8 rin. N. 1. (P Cheastrough) Total (2.40; (1.10, (2.20. (2.30. Dupl F: 5.22.20 CSF: 523 77.

Catterick 1.20 High Ponhor 1.50 Dorth Castin 12.50 GLENE NOVICES CHARE 5- 12,04 22-512 STONYMANI (23) M Hemmond 5-11-5 49-231 TISM PALLE (25) (CD) G Moore 5-11-5 4014-2 AMMER VALLEY (D) D Wilsons 5-10-12 39-044 PERMITCH'S BROTTHER (12) Mrs 5 Smin 5-10-12 014US-0 FREENDLY KNOOKT (14) J Haldane I PPPP-0 GOME ASSIGNE (40) M Barres 5-10-

TOP FORM: TIPS: Anniber Velley 6, Monyman 7 1906: Land Darwel 8 11 0 3 Storey 5-2 (J Chierline) 12 ran Beetleys TT-1 Monymen, 3-1 Twin Falls. 7-2 Amber Valley, 8-1 Femelck's Brother, 16-1 Friendly Knight, 25-1 Garna Ashare. 22/25-3 SUDDEN SPRN (14) (C) J Norton 6-19-0

09-7490 FLAT TOP (T) M W Easterby 5-11-0

69-7490 FLAT TOP (T) M W Easterby 5-11-5

50-64-9 SPRICE OF PRITTY (T) J HOWARD JOHNSON 5-11-1

000-52 TALL MEASURE (28) D Serindistums 10-11-0

000-52 TALL MEASURE (28) D Serindistums 10-11-0

000-52 TALL MEASURE (28) D Serindistums 10-11-0

2004-0 THEST AND CONST (1903 J L Harris 5-10-7

2006013- MINIST MEMORITY (2003 J Custon 5-10-7

0006013- MINIST MEMORITY (2003 J Custon 5-10-8

620-00 CULLIN CAPPER (200) T WINDON 4-18-3

00040-0 SULLIN CAPPER (200) T WINDON 4-18-3

00040-0 SULLIN CAPPER (200) T WINDON 4-18-3 ...M M Manghite (1) ...M Watson (7) ...E Beldegion (7) ...Mos P Jenes (6) ...D Swindlehovet (1) _Hos C Brins (7) _R Hole (5) _Miss P Holesy (5 .C Bount (1) .Bins R Clark (7) .P Burray (7) .Rins S Lamb (7)

1.50 GOOD LUCK PAUL ALSTER HOTICEP CHASE Son 17 110yes CA,178 103-417 GENER LAD (14) TON HOTS S FINSH B-11-5
PE-41F SECONTRUL DUKKER (8) J. Howard Johnson b-16-12
PE-41F SECONTRUL DUKKER (8) J. Howard Johnson b-16-12
PE-50RL LOCATOCKER (12) LOCATOCKER (14) Marke 6-10-12
PE-51F DOKUM CASTLE (12) J. Carachon 9-10-12
US-45F TROO GOLD (16) P. Creenbroong b-10-12 TOP FORM TIPO Durlin Castle S, Sharranti 7 1990: Forhidden Timo 7 11 6 T Reod 1 – 6 (L. Lange) 5 rm Betting: 15-8 Durlin Castle. 5-2 Gene Lad, 4-1 Yoo Gotd, 5-1 Showell, 5-1 Broombil Duker, 16-1 Genracite Lucius

2.20 raffyard house selling humble $\simeq c_{1,043}$ (0) MESONETTE (7) B Elison 4-10-7

Mil TiPG: Parietto B, Anorsk 7 Joynidar 4 11 7 R Quest 4-6 (Miles & Milligers) 7 (see tillings 8-4 Furfatts, 3-1 Anoralt, 8-2 Plant Enough, 8-1 in A late

2.30 BOWLE HANDSCAP CHARE 2m 81 52,766

1 325-55 THE TOASTES COP (200) Mest M Mittgen 9-12-0 ...

2 32-852 MEREL RENG (3) M Remes 8-11-7

2 129-56 JANES BOX RELLY (8) Mrs J Brown 8-11-3

4 055-97 THE SOLDERS (11) (CD) M Barracising 9-10-10 ...

5 04407-P THOSE CORRECT (19-6) D McCare 9-10-9 ...

6 14-10-97 MICH SOUR MEMB (20) Lange 8-10-9 ...

7 01-449 MICH SOUR MEMB (20) Lange 8-10-9 ...

7 01-449 KAREMANTER (8) No. 8 5 5 mm 5-30-0 TOP FORM TERM Show Yeer Hand S, Rubel King 7 1980: Judicial Phild 6 11 4 10 Degre 13-6 (N Taintier) 4 can Budding: 7-8 Show Your Hand, 5-2 Petel King, 7-2 Julius Box Billy, 5-1 The Toasser, 20-1 Funny Old Georg 3-1 Tim Soldier, 30-1 Karenanino.

3.20 INSTRUM WANDELLEY MOVICED HANDICAP INTIPLE 2m C2,136 "Ar A Whethe (7)

The FORM The Last Try 8, thy Manuschah 7, Dr Migar 6 1995: Tanteug 4 12 7 David Ryene 30-4 (M Mangher) 12 res Buthay 5-2 Last Try, 4-1 Breedite, 6-1 Past Manter, 6-1 Dr Edgar, My Stemandock, 10-1 Appearance 14 renorms

Double helping for Dobbin

Montrave for local trainer

Triennium, who underwent a tubing operation following

TONY DOBBIN took his total to 37 at Musselburgh ing) or they don't and today yesterday when riding a double on Triennlum and teith. "They were a bad bunch, but it's nice to see Triennium get a winning

chance."
Montrave was a spare ride his previous outing at New-castle, was sent off the 10-11 favourite for the Sea Hole

Chase, taking over from Gary Cahill, who was badly shaken Selling Handicap Hurdle and after being unseated by Miss won like a "good thing."

after being unseated by Miss Mont in Triennium's race. Exeter

12.40 Peter Bonim; 2.10 Slew Man 2.40 SHINING LIGHT (MAD

12.40 GERM RADIO CLAIMING RURDLE 24 21 C2.103 ***— "O GRAND RANDO CLAMENDO BURDLE Ses SI CL."

**PO-BORATTO (SPA) (273) C Barrell 5-11-12

***SONS-P ALLARRANIA (56) (CD) M Hist 5-11-6

**4540-5 RIMITER SON MPRO 5-11-3

**ZUZI3 PETER MONARY (14) (CD) M Fign 4-11-3

**SON1 TOP SKIPPER (36) V Greeney 4-11-0

**OSM40 BY HANYMESSON (19) J JOSES 5-10-5

FP HORPOLK GLORY (27) D BESSEN 5-10-5

**G-BORNI SLAND (28) P HORP 4-10-5

**G-BORNI SLAND (28) P HORP 4-10-6

TOP FORM TIPS: Peter Mouseny S, Top Skipper 7, Khatir 6 WAS Please Do Tail 4 10 2 7 G Marphy 7-2 (W Q R Torrer) 10 ran

lettings 4-8 Poter Monamy, 9-2 Top Skipper, 6-1 Khatir, 12-1 Fortones Rose, My Hervinski, 14-Datrapha.

1 - T O CREACEAFT MOYICES' CRASE 2m 25 64,958

1 0-800TS if ALL (444) G Betting 6-11-2
2 050H3- BULLAMOURNO (262) H Hove 7-11-2
3 1111-F4 CLASTLENCH TYLEADER (17) P Michols 7-11-2
4 2002-3 40 COURT BASTER (18) R BULAGE 6-11-2
5 20H49- DARTES VIEW (443) P Hedger 6-11-2
6 FP- DODGY DEALER (648) Mr. Susan Nota 6-11-2
7 1/480-F CROOKER (29) J Gibor 7-11-2
8 1/5120- KIMANOGKY (239) H Herderson 6-11-2
9 09H-2-2 RESENLOW(23) A Tumer 7-11-2
10 60F/30- UNCLE ALCY (231) Mass H Kingly 7-11-2
11 80F-145 COLLETTES CROOKER (15) G Hom 7-10-1
12 1201-F2 JOSEFFMA (16) A Foster 5-10-11
12 1201-F2 JOSEFFMA (16) A Foster 5-10-11
13 33/34-4 TELLECHERRY (30) J Hes H Angly 7-70-11

TOP FORM TIPS: Reschlock S, Court Master 7, Cantickel 1993: Nazare 7 11 () P Helley 7–1 (D Eleverth) 13 san

1.40 HERBETTA KNIGHT SOTH HIRTEDAY MOVICEF HANDICAP BURDLE 24 23,125 FORDERTTA KINGHT SOTH BERTISDAY MOVICES BANDICA FORD-2 SUPPLIES GENOTIN (11) (BF) J Old 7-(1-10) 3102-1 BOUNDS LING FIRM (61) Miss H Kingle 5-(1-10) 3067-3 FABULOUS MTOTO (6) M Samders 6-(1-1-3) 266 ABOVE THE CUT (27) C MOVICE 4-(1-1-1) 5008-59 WINBOW (25) A TUTTUI 6-(10-2) MULI-6 COOL GUNNER (28) J Ning 6-(10-0) FOLD-1 TODOR TOWN (275) N Beshop 8-(10-0) 20050-2 TAP SPOCS (16) R Bayer 6-(10-0) 5050-2 TAP SPOCS (16) R Bayer 6-(10-0) 20051-2 TAP SROES (16) R Baker 5-10-0
0954-40 RLAZING BERACLE (21) Mrs R Henderson 4-10-0
0954-40 RLAZING BERACLE (21) Mrs R Henderson 4-10-0
0000-0 Accient Present (12) N Ayrits 5-10-0

TOP FORM TIPE: Sounds Like Firm 8, Engresse Conetin 7, Tap Shoes 6 1905: Perimps 4 11 5 Q F Ryen 5–4 (Klas M Knight) 16 rus ings 7-4 Sounds Like Fun, 2-1 Supreme Genotin, 8-1 Fabulous Micro, 10-1 Tap Shoes, 12-1 Wisnes Apore The Cur, Cool Gamer,

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7 remnes TOP FORM TIPS: Khaliff B, Edgemoor Prices 7 1995: Bookstan B 11 4 A Proctor 9–4 (D Moure Madding: 11-4 Edgermoor Prince, 3-1 Siew Man, 9-2 Khaifdt, 5-1 Decide Yourcell, 7-1 Bell One, 6-1 Ream Yo Na Boot, 12-1 Spring Saint.

2.40 EDRIBOURG HANDICAP CHASE 2m 71 110yds C4,867 TOP FORM TIPE: Spining Light 8, Oath Regrets 7

1905: Bishops Island 9 10 11 G F Ryon 20–1 (Files II Knight) 8 cm Bettings 9-4 Shikang Light, 11-4 Ostus Regrets, 9-2 Duhitriow Lodge, 5-1 Fulh Ol Fire, 6-1 Dom Sam -1 Sunley 83y, 16-1 Master Jolson.

8.10 rdecrist rousses. Paracur see slares cally vet moviced murdle (qualified for $110 ext{ye}$ calass 01-1 GAYE FARE (22) R Balley 5-11-3 105305-BOHTA BLAKENITY (226) G Balling 5-10-10 BERDWIN WREN (221) P Hobbs 5-10-10 USP/I- GOUNTRY STYLE (1083) R Amer 7-10-10 60- COUNTRY TOWN (273) A GARY 7-10-10
50- COUNTRY TOWN (273) A GARY 7-10-10
52-0- DORCE WOTTE (18) M Pipe 6-10-10
52-0- DORCE WOTTE (18) M Pipe 6-10-10
52-0- CANCERS MAID (9) M Pipe 5-10-10
53-0- CANCERS MAID (9) M Pipe 5-10-10
6-70-- LALLY THE FILLY (12) M-7. Bertness Wuring
5305-7- WOOGM SENTER (25) C. LOCKSON 6-10-10
6-70-0- MY LOYE (271) Mess H (1905 5-10-10 5005-P BOOMERNITHE (25) C Junction 6-10-10 GF-0 O MY LOVE (21) Mass H Anglet 5-10-10 9 PHANDORFUN (43) G Basing 6-10-10 533-12 RIVER BAY (21) Mass H Rolpt 5-10-10 23-4 ROVAL ROLER (23) (187) J Gifford 5-10-11 P BULAYS DREAM (25) G Hom 7-10-10 0 VANSELL (21) R Buckler 5-10-10 FRO-P ZEM OR (15) J Mullins 5-10-10 ...

995: Cross's Delight & 10 5 D Bridgerster 9-2 (M Pipe) 13 can

eddlagr 11-4 River Bay, 2-1 Gaye Fame, 7-2 Pacifing The Facts, 6-1 Royal Ruler, 12-1 Dolce Note. 14-1 Inger Maid.

●Blinkered today for the first time: BANGOR: 12.30 D'naan, Fastini Gold, Indian Wolf, Rattle. CATTERICK: 2.20 Meesonette; 3.20 Environmental Law. EXETER: 12.40 Robin

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for the second

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Soccer

Premiership: Coventry 2, Newcastle 1

Huckerby deepens the gloom

WCASTLE United had £21 million of striking talent on view at Highfield kick Road. Strange to think that the player they sold for a relative pittance four weeks ago was the man who mattered

Darren Huckerby did for Coventry what he failed to do in his time at St James' Park. He eclipsed both Shearer and Ferdinand in half an hour, making one goal and scoring the other as Coventry gained their first win since the open-ing day of the season.

Rarely can a player have waited such a short time as Huckerby to prove to the club he had just left that he was

probably worth keeping. Six minutes into his fourth game for the Sky Blues had elapsed before Newcastle's manager Kevin Keegan, who sold the former Lincoln sold the former Lincoln striker to Coventry last lied his 39 years with a save of month, saw Huckerby get off the mark for his new club.

Richardson, noted more for the feet of the feet the feet the feet of the challenger.

the ferocity of his challenges rather than the accuracy of his passing, delivered the first of two telling first-half

With Peacock and Albert standing horribly square, he used his speed to great advan-tage before drilling a low shot across Straicek and into the bottom corner of the net. Unsurprisingly, given the

lack of first-team opportuni-ties he was afforded on Tyneside, Huckerby celebrated at length. So, too, did the crowd. Incredibly, Coventry had not scored in the first half of any competitive match at Highfield Road all season.

lightful piece of skill before testing Ogrizovic, then Albert did the same with a powerful header from Gillespie's free-

But better was to follow for Coventry on 32 minutes when Richardson, again the instigabert to release Huckerby.

The youngster waited for support and found his captain McAllister at the edge of the area. Unless he is taking penalties against England, it would be difficult to find a cooler head than the Scottish

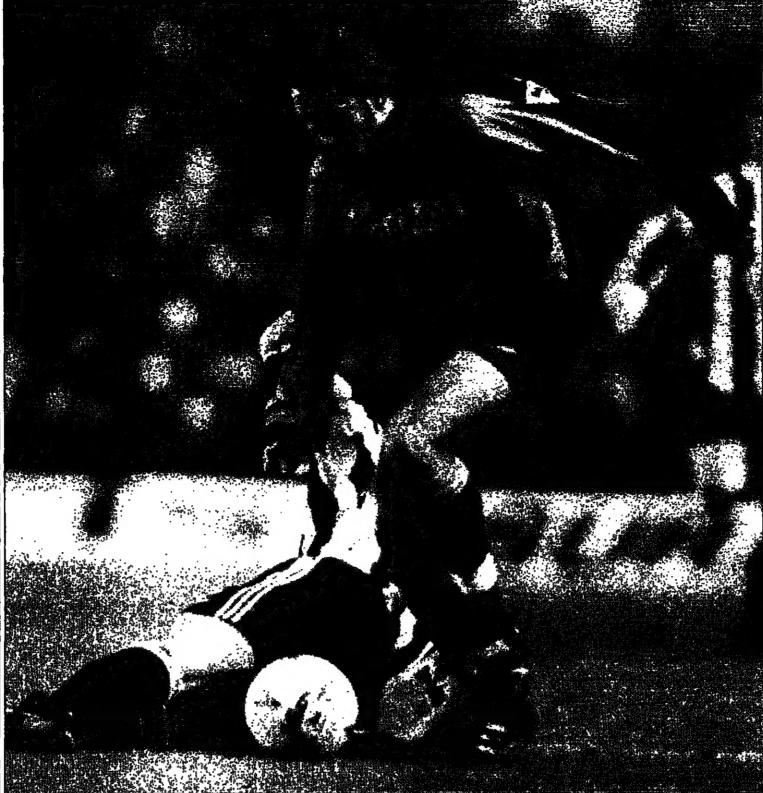
captain's.

He struck a delightful shot across Smicek for the second and neither Highfield Road, nor Keegan, could believe what was unfolding before

To add insult to injury for Newcastle, Shearer's exqui-site header from Gillesple's corner was then diverted at

restart, when, more by luck than judgment, Srnicek blocked a Williams effort with his legs after Whelan had intelligently stepped over

Telfer's low cross.
But Shearer has a rare knack for scoring and it was not too long before he demon-strated his art. After 61 minutes he stooped to conquer after Gillespie gave Beardsley a chance to drill in a low cross from the right, and Newcastle launched a frantic



Left foot forward . . . Darren Huckerby, who gave his former club an early reminder of his goalscoring talents, slips past Robert Lee

Walker in Palace coup

First Division: Crystal Palace 0, Sheffield United 1

AVE BASSETT's past caught up with him last night. Sheffield United, whom he left last December after eight years as manager, rolled over Crystal Palace to open a six-point gap between these sides in the leading pack as United moved above Barnsley and level with Bolton on points.

Palace had now taken three points from three draws in their last six games. They were desperately tentative ast night, badly missing Hopkin's control and dynamism. Neither side, despite their lofty positions, entered the match with heads held high. United marked the start of Howard Kendall's second year in charge on Saturday with an abject 4-1 defeat at

their 1-1 draw at Norwich

tion called for vid of that incident.

Caution versus meekness did not bode well. Palace indeed seemed so shell-shocked that they remained shellbound, giving United the con-fidence to come out and settle the better. After 12 minutes
Walker beaded a Spackman cross against a post and then Scott infiltrated a statuesque defence to meet White's freekick with a poor shot.

Muscat was sweetness itself, although no more gener-ous than the rest as Palace's midfield retreated to assist or rather to muddle — the de-fence, leaving Dyer and Shipperley without support or a decent service. In a United defence that missed Vonk on Saturday, Holdsworth and Hodgson could hardly believe the comfort of their ride.

United might well have taken the lead five minutes before they did. Roberts, the and Houghton sent off. Yes- sweeper, missed an intercep-

chouro clear, but Day's low scoop prevented the cross shot curling inside the far

> A minute before half-time, however, Palace's defence were again slow to react to Beard's centre from the left, allowing Walker to run the ball past Day.

The goal, or more probably Bassett's tongue during the interval, brought a sharp rise in Palace's spirit level. On the hour Kelly had to save at Dyer's feet and then Shipper-ley escaped from Hodgson and Patterson made a marvellous saving tackle.

In the last 20 minutes Pal-ace laid siege but were unable to break down an indomitable

Crystal Paleous Day: Edworthy, Gordon (Niden, Stmin), Roberts, Tutils, Freedman, Muscat, Houghton, Shipperley, Dyor (McKencle, 71), Vearth, Sherffield Gelfeck Kelty, Scard (Anthony, 90), Parker, Spackman, Hodgson, Holdsworth, White, Petterson, Katchouro, Walker, Scott (Simpson, 81) Referens D Orr (Ivor, Bucks).

West Ham say exile's £30m

WEST HAM's board yes-terday thwarted a bid to take control of the Pre miership club by a millionaire tax exile who was will-

no to tax

ing to inject £30 million. Michael Tabor, a race-horse owner who sold his chain of betting shops to Coral for £30 million last year, wanted shareholders at vesterday's agm to reject Unton Park chairman Terry representative, the lawyer

Henry Montlake. But Tabor, 54, who has homes in Monte Carlo and Barbados, knew the attempt was a long shot, with Brown having the pre-After the meeting. West

meeting backing of about 90 per cent of shareholders. Ham's managing director Peter Storrie indicated that Brown had begun negotia-tions which could lead to the club being floated on the Stock Exchange.

Scottish Premier Division: Rangers 4, Kilmamock 2

Andersen's triple blow

AUL GASCOIGNE's AUL GASCOIGNE's missed first-half penal-ty became irrelevant as Rangers overcame the conces sion of an early goal with a bundle of their own, highlighted by Bo Andersen's hat-

Barely four minutes had passed when the big home crowd was reduced to that quizzical silence peculiar to people unaccustomed to be people unaccustomed to being denied their own way. Find-lay flighted a free-kick from the right and Montgomerie flicked a 12-yard header to the

right of Goram.
The visitors from Ayrshire had only one further goal at-tempt in the first half — a long-range shot from Wright which was easily held by Goram — having clearly decided to contain the skirmish-ing to an area just outside Lekovic's jurisdiction.

when a Lekovic clearance hardly cleared the ground and landed at the feet of Laudrup, who immediately played it shead of the in-coming Andersen. The striker reached it at the perfect mo-ment on the left side of the area and slid a left-foot shot

under Lekovic from 10 yards. The goalkeeper made up for his error in some style on the stroke of half-time when he dived left to block Gascoigne's penalty, awarded after Dylan Kerr handled the England midfielder's freekick from the left.

But, whatever Rangers' failings, there is always Laudrup. The Dane, having worked almost single-handedly to bring invention and penetration to the front line, suddenly provided the service which brought two goals in

Just over an hour had been

The tactic worked until | played when Laudrup ducked fenders on the right before sending a low cross to the far foot drove it over the line.

Laudrup was a little fortu-nate with his next, a cross which was deflected to came along to cause trouble."
Steven; he quickly played it he said. "The faces we are see-Steven; he quickly played it low towards Andersen who forced it home from six yards. Andersen completed his hat-trick in the 71st minute, receiving Cleland's centre from the right and hitting a left-foot shot on the turn past Lekovic from 10 yards. Then

in the 88th minute a mistake in the Rangers defence set up the substitute Roberts, who scored from 10 yards.

Rampers Goren; Geland, Robertson, Gough, McLaren (Petric, 79min), Ferguson, Steven (McInnes, 72), Gasocigne, Andersen, Albertz, Laudrup (McCotst, 73), Klessmooth Lekovic, McPherson, D. Kerr, Lauchlen, Montgomerie (McGowan, 78), Findley, Michteld, Relity, Wright (Roberts, 72), Bagan (Burke, 85), A. Kerr.

again in hunt for Kidd

ANCHESTER CITY are considering making a second, audacious aftempt to convince Brian Kidd that he should swap the No. 2 job at Old Trafford for the management of the convince that the convince of the convinc ford for the manager's posi-tion at Maine Road. The First Division club's board has dis-cussed inviting him to fill

the vacancy.

City's previous attempt to persuade Kidd to return to the club he left in the late Seventies, after scoring 44 league goals in 98 games, failed 18 months ago.

At the time he said that he

At the time be said that he was content to remain as assistant to Alex Ferguson and that he was not contemplating a step up to front-line management. Manchester United too were adament that the man who is viewed in some quarters as Ferguson's likely successor would remain to honour a lucrative

and long-term contract.

City have been without a full-time manager since early November when Steve Cop-pell resigned on health grounds only 33 days after being appointed. Since then Phil Neal, who was Coppell's assistant, has been in charge of first-team affairs but his attempts to change City's for-tunes have been unsuccessful and he now accepts that he is

unlikely to be appointed.
City's decision to pursue Kidd was prompted by a fail-ure to convince Howard Wilkinson to make an immediate return to management. The former Leeds United manager has twice been asked to as-sume control at Maine Road but said he would not discuss

new year. Bristol City, meanwhile, have been charged under two articles of FA rules relating to after the crowd violence that marred Sunday's derby with Bristol Rovers, some of whose players were allegedly as-saulted by home fans after the

The Ashton Gate club have 14 days to respond to the charge. The chairman Scott disappointed", claiming that they had met all the condi-

tions laid down by Health and Safety officials.
"We ourselves were victims of the hooligans, who clearly

ing on the videos are not faces we recognise. They are trou-blemakers from outside the Middlesbrough have taken back Vladimir Kinder on trial. The 27-year-old, three

times the Slovakia Player of the Year, is expected to play for the reserves at home to Port Vale tonight. Also appearing in midfield will be Emerson, trying to get match-fit and playing alongside his 24-year-old brother-in-law Fabinho, who started with Flamengo of Brazil be-fore moving to Deportivo

Pools Forecast

2 Chelsen	m. Street, 48-00.	33 Wales
3 Coventry	v Middlesbro	M 1
4 Derby	v Bischburn	3 LINESCO DEAL
5 Everton	v Wimbleden	
6 Leicester	v Notem F	g 33 Colches
7 Man Utd	v Leeds	34 Derling
& Newcastie	v Tottennam	33 Colches 1 34 Derling 1 35 Exeter
9 West Ham	v Sunderland	37 Lincoln
NATIONWIDE LA	LOUIE	38 Mansfil 89 Northan
10 Sarnsky	w Man C	1 SELL'S SCI PRESENTA D
11 Selion	v Southend	BELL'S SC
12 Chariton	v Wohene	PREDICTAL
13 C Palace	v Stoke	1 40 Aberde
14 Hudd Seld	v lpswich	1 41 Celtic
15 Nerwich	v Bractord	1 42 Hearts
16 Oxford	v Reading	# 43 Kilmam
17 Port Yale	v Portsmouth	1 44 Rolth
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18 Short Utd	y Grinsby	1 SCOTTIGH
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Team talk The independent news and reports service

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Arsenal	06	ipswich Town	19	Sheffleld United	15
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United	03	Shaffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34	Leicester City	35	Southhampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	24	Man, United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	98	Milwell	29	Wimbledon	26
Coventry City	17	Newcastie Utd	16	Wolves	37
Derby County	28	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09
Everten	05	Nottrn. Forest	13	Rangers	10

CALLS COST 50P PER MIN MON-FIR, BAM-BPM AND 45P PER MIN AT ALL OTHER THAS SUBPLETO RC BAS, 15 MARK LANE, LEEDS US 1 SUB, HELPLANE, 0171 713 4473

The Guardian CINTERACTIVE

Klinsmann is linked with England again

URGEN KLINSMANN will be allowed to leave Bayern Munich next June, renewing return to England, according to a German newspaper

The 32-year-old striker. originally contracted to Bay-ern until 1998, asked for his deal to be changed so that he could leave next summer. The request is believed to have been granted. Blackburn and more

recently Nottingham Forest have been strongly linked with Klinsmann, who under the Bosman ruling would cost no transfer fee if he came back to English football at the end of his Bayern contract. Klinsmann has publicly criticised the tactics of

Bayern's Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni and has had a long feud with the captain Lothar Matthäus. Sean Dundee, the South African-born striker recently voted the Bundesliga's Player of the Year, has been granted German citizenship, clearing

the way for him to play for the national team. Dundee plays for Karlsruhe and is top scorer in the Bun-desliga with 13 goals. He has lived in Germany for four years and he applied for citi-zenship using a fast-track method reserved for cases of "public interest". Normally, 10 years' residence in Ger-

many is required. The 24-year-old player's move sparked outrage in his native country, where some politicians accused him of turning his back on South Rugby League

NFL: Bullato 14, Mierri 16. Alpine Skiing

Soccer	
FA CUP Second-round replays	
Poterborough (3) 4 Houghton 20 Chartery 21 Carrelhers 36 53 (Poterborough away to P	Haffeld (1) 4 History 31 3,997 Hymouth)
Wycombo 1) 3 V/ullans 28 Caroli 58 Desouaa 76	Samut (1) 2 Campbell 26 Hodger 90 3,851

Results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Fowler 2: Lyttle 51 (eg)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE First Division Bradford C (0) 0 10,077 **AUTO WINDSCREEKS** SHIELD

Virgo 92 (set; Brighton win 3–2 on golden goat rule) BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE **Premier Division**

SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP

Macciesfield (0) 1 Contes 83 PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division Dorby D Everton 3. Oktham 3. Botton 3. Carend Divisions Grimsby 2. Stockport Rugby Union

American Football

ALIPUS SHALING
HIBROS WORLD CUP SLALOM [Madorme of Campiglio, kt): 1, Y Sykora (Aut) Imin 37.90sec; 2. A Tombe (it) 1.38.48; 3, S Amize (Fr) 1.38.52 Coverall strandingst Statemen 1. Sykora 280pts; 2. T Stangassinger (Aut) 140; 3-1; T Statemen (Nor), K A Asmodt (Nor) 132, World Cope 1, H Kneus (Aut) 297; 2. Sykora 282; 3, Asmodt 256. Hottleese Cope 1, Australa 3.018pts; 2, Germany 1.453; 3, Rely 1,311.

Basketball

IOV 2.
CALEDONIAN MASTER (Edinburgh):
Fourth-read leaders I. McShane (Eng)
35. J. Shaw (Scot) 3: A Kinsman (Eng) 6:
Daly (Ira) 25. Shath-read leaders I.
McShane (Eng) 45. A Kinsman (Eng) 4: J.
Shaw (Scot), M Ferguson (Eng) 3 and one unifersion! FIDE 1997 WORLD RANKING 1. KI

Cricket WORLD SERVES; Adetaider Pakista West Indies 177-3 (J Murray 65), Indies won by seven wickets.

Hockey WOMEN'S GOLD CUP (New Delha): 5. Russia C; South Korea 3, China 2 ice Hockey

Fixtures

Soccer WORLD CUP: European qualifying Group Sin Malta v Spain (5.0). COCA-GOLA CUP: Fourth-reun replays Southampion v Caderd Ltd; Sto port v West Ham (7.46). FA CARLING POTATO PA CARLING PRINTERSHIP Shaft v Man Utd (7.45). MATIONWISH: LEAGUE: Plant Divis West Broto v Nowich (7.45). Second Islant Miswall v Linn (7.45). SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP; Our Cash Marconthe. Shabdidge. (1997).

SCOTTISM LEAGUE Part Directions Aucine v. S. Johnstone.
UNEDOND LEAGUE: Challenge Capthaird vesuate Knowstey U.v. Ct. Harwood T.
DR SLANTENS LEAGUES Pression (7-45).
Resulteren St. Leonards v. Dartford.
Rev COUNTIES LEAGUES Part Direction.
St. Helone To. v. Holker Old Boys.
ROOTTIEST COUNTIES LEAGUES CAPE TEAGUES.
Cape Third reseals Half Rd Rgrs v. Pickerled To.

Case Third reseate Half Rd Rgrs v Pickering Th.
POSITIES LEARGISE Premier Directoring Th.
POSITIES LEARGISE Premier DirectorLeads v Nann Ltd (7.9). Treimpere v Notth
Forest (7.0). Florit DirectorShaff Ltd (7.0). Blackcoon v Coventry (7.0);
Middlestrough v Port Vale (7.0); Sunstenlead v Premion (7.0). Seconed Intellector
Weatham v Rotherham (7.0); Vork v
Shreesbury (7.0). Third Binhalors Postjesseet Rochdele v Linzele Case Group
Twee Bernstey v Scathorotte (7.0);
Avois Insulance Commissorth v OrtFirst Director Commissorth v OrtStighton v Portsmouth (2.0); Bristol Pres
Tottomhum Norvich v Chelesia; Swimsen v
Charton (2.0). Chariton (2.0).

hah's Quay; Cemess Bay v Rityl; Comay v Porthmadog; Ebbw Vale v Carmarthen Tr; Hohywall v Carmarton Tr; Weishpool v Briton Forry. Rugby Union COURAGE CLUBS ONABPRONSHIP: Instead Langue Oner Bristel y Leichster. COURTY CHARPTORENIE: Cambridge shire y Suffolk (Shelford); Essex y Norfolk

strice v Schrolk (Shellord); Essex v Nortolk (Thurnock).

• Wayne McCullough, the former WBC bentamweight chumpion from Northern retaind, is threatening to use IT Vor multi-million-pound damages. McCullough and his manager Mait Timby are angry about repealed cancellations of the final contest for ITV in a three-light deet worth around 37 million dofiara. Tibby aboute ITV of "scrawing up the last set months of "wyne's career" and said herwill vite the lessalit in Celifornia this week. ITV, who claim there is no case to answer, say they will challenge any Courl action.

McCullough made the successful delences of his WBC bett, which "were scraened by the network, but he and they were unable to agree on the Rad fight of the deal with ITV. The "Pocket Rocket" is due to challenge aftector's WBC super-bentamweelight champion Daniel Zaradoza in Boston on Jenuary 11, a Rgite which "TV will not be showing their courset finicibes at the end of the mostin.

• Jos Natiney Janded three field goals and Dan Merino threw a local-index peace to the American Feetball Conformance. Buffellor's defeat clinched the AFC East title for the New England Patriots, although the Silvic car still secure a with-tand place with a home win over the Karses City Christic on Sunday.

• Johannesburg vezs yesterdey declared

Skiing

Tomba's second strength

ALBERTO TOMBA cele-brated his return from injury with second place in yes-terday's slalom at Madonna di Campiglio. The Austrian Thomas Sykora took his second win this season and leads the World Cup slalom Racing for the first time since March, Tomba, who was slightly troubled by bruising

under his right eye, caught a gate on the first leg and managed only eighth place. But as usual he turned up the power for the second leg with the fastest time of 51.35sec. Sykora's combined time on the Canalone Miramonti piste

was 1min 37.90sec against Tomba's 1.38.48. France's Sebastien Amiez, who fell heavily in the warm-up, was third in 1.38.52.

turned out to support him with klaxons and banners, and gave his rivals a warning. "Maybe they should be upset that I was second behind Sy-kora," he said. "They didn't expect me to be this strong after what has happened in the last few months."
The Austrian team, domi-

times Olympic champion de-lighted a large crowd, who

nant so far this season, enjoyed mixed fortunes. Sieg-fried Vogelreiter, who had never finished higher than sixth, was fastest on the first leg but fourth overall. Michael Tritscher crashed on the first leg after his knee gave way, Thomas Stangassinger fell near the finish of the first leg, and Mario Reiter skied out in the second

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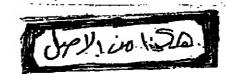
Ice Hockey

Hawks back in land of the living

Vic Batchelder

KINGSTON Hawks have raised the funds to complete the season. The Premier League club, who last week suspended their fixtures while seeking money, will be back on the ice at Guildford on Saturday and at home to Slough on Sunday. The Northeastern town's business com-munity is said to have underwritten most of the season's projected £56,000 shortfall. ... Great Britain face Switzer

qualifying game at Sheffield without the forward Nicky Chinn, who has an injured hand A British win will ensure they reach February's final qualifying tournament. Manchester Storm, second from bottom of the Superleague, yesterday signed a netminder and a forward from North American minor league clubs and released the German netminder Marc Gronau. His replacement, Eric Raymond, 24, was with Huntington Blizzard and the forward Mike Maurice arland in tonight's Olympic rives from Houston Astros



Wembley aims to take on the world

brought closer by yesterday's choice of Wembley as the new national stadium.

Hopes that the Olympics, football's World Cup and athletics' World Championships can be staged only seven years apart were boosted by

Those behind the respective bids welcomed the decision to name Wembley — albeit an entirely rebuilt one — as the 80,000-seat English National Stadium Both the British Stadium. Both the British Olympic Association and Football Association said the rebuilding of the ground would strengthen the cases for staging world-class

apply.

Its spokesman Tony Ward said it had received a "pretty strong" indication from the sport's world governing body that it would be successful. We are delighted with today's decision," he said. "Wembley is known all over the world.

the world.

"If we get the championships, the World Cup and the
Olympics in the first decade
of the new century, it would
be fantastic for the country."
The FA secretary Graham
Telly said: "This is very good
news for English football, and

a major boost for England's World Cup 2006 campaign. It will be warmly received throughout Europe."

events.

But the first major event at the rebuilt Wembley may be the 2001 World Athletics Championships, for which

a catalyst to attracting many major new events to the cap tal city and would provide a admitted that the stadium foundation for any future Olympic bid." A bid for the 2008 Games is rumoured.

Wembley, successful over a rival Manchester bid, will be National Lottery funding towards the £210-230 million cost, the Sports Council But Manchester received the consolation prize of being

awarded £60 million of Lot-tery money towards a £90-100 million, 60,000-seat stadium to host the 2002 Commonwealth Games and a further 220 million towards a £29 million swimming complex.

Discussions have started with Manchester City for the club to become tenants of the Announcing the decisions, new stadium. One of the key Sir Rodney Walker, chairman

tional prestige had been a major factor in its success. "Both bids had their attrac-tions. Wembley, significantly, included proposals for a Tagleader of the Manchester bid,

architects will be invited to

It is known that the sta-

lium will have retractable

seating over the athletics track, so football and rugby

crowds will be as close to the action as possible.

Plans for it also to feature

until there are guarantees that it will not suffer the prob-

retractable roof are on hold

table alternatives.

and pool were probably the best they could have hoped ship events' programme from the potential users of the stadium." for. "I think it would be diffi-cult for Manchester to be-come the monopoly supplier The detail of the new Wemof sport which London has been, although in one way that has been broken by the bley remains vague, however. Sir Norman Foster's design, commissioned by the private company that owns the stadium, has not convinced the Sports Council. International

"This competition has been one for a national stadium, and we have long believed that this country was big enough to hold its major sporting events in more than cil's announcement in effect provides the framework for

N unprecedented the British Athletic Federa-hat-trick of world-class events was apply.

In ational stadium in London conditions of its approval is said that Wembley's interna-that it remains viable beyond the Commonwealth Games.

The conditions of its approval is said that Wembley's interna-tional prestige had been a sterdam has endured.

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The conditions of its approval is said that wembley plc, ad-mitted: "We have won the construction of its approval is said that wembley's interna-tional prestige had been a sterdam has endured.

The conditions of its approval is said that wembley plc, ad-mitted: "We have won the construction of its approval is said that wembley plc, ad-mitted: "We have won the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that wembley in the construction of its approval is said that we well approval is said that we well approval is said that we well approval is The existing stadium will be almost entirely demolished

only the famous Twin Towers will remain — from summer 1998. But it has not been decided if that will mean closing it during rebuilding work scheduled to take between two and three years.

Alan Coppin, of the stadi-

The company will give the new stadium to a trust to get around rules forbidding Lot-tery money benefiting the prithen concentrate on the bookings business as a commer

The Sports Council have sum of £120 million of public money from the Lottery will Party wish to be equally satisfied that no public money will find its way into private shareholders' pockets, and that ticket pricing will reflect the ability to pay of the vast

Cup final could go north for one season

redevelopment work to be carried out at the stadium,

The Football Association is committed to maintainis unavailable for the show piece game for at least one eason, near the turn of the

Graham Stringer, the

Motor Racing

HE sport's chiefs ad-

mitted vesterday that

Formula One teams

may refuse to compete in Italy next year in the wake

of the manslaughter charges

brought against Frank Wil-

liams and five others over Ayrton Senna's death.

part of the game," he said.

Yesterday Ken Tyrrell added his voice to the general

concern. "I have no doubt

that teams will get together to decide what action should be

taken.
"I think the fact that it has

happened to the Williams

pect of all. They are arguably

the most reliable team in the

history of Formula One. You can only achieve that reliabil-

ity by absolute excellence, su-

perb design and making sure every nut and bolt is secured.

If this can happen to them,

what chance is there for the

The Jordan team echoed Tyrrell. "We will be looking to the Fia for guidance on this," said Ian Phillips, the

team's commercial director,

THE FA Cup final may domestic fixture being move from Wembley for played at Wembley. But the first time since 1928 as a result of the massive mean the famous stadium wembley were closed. seat venue would host the game, and other finals, if Wembley were closed. "In the year 2000 it is a

possibility. Our stadium will be up and running by gotiations with the FA and the Rugby League, it could

not really an issue which the teams can handle on their

Phillips also praised Fia's prompt action in sending the

Italian government, via the Automobile Club of Italy, an urgent memorandum out-

lining the difficulties posed by Monday's charges. "Max Mosley has very quickly taken a stance on the matter,

as we would have expected

Cricket

Curtain up on Atherton's desperados

David Hopps looks for England to perform in Bulawayo after dire rehearsals

CHAEL Atherton today faces the greatest crisis of his captaincy since the ball-tampering affair, as England attempt to rectify an inadequate start to their tour of Zimbabwe with victory in the first Test at Queen's.

Atherton survived allega tions more than two years ago about soil in his pockets at Lord's, but egg on his face might be more difficult to explain away. For England not to outplay Zimbabwe, the weakest Test nation, over the two-Test series would leave their stock lower than at any time since he took office.

Zarreas

welcom

Dackser

they kno

He remains the best option to lead England against Australia next summer and the siens indicate that his capand the time is nigh for an underachieving side to come

to his assistance. The one-day defeats against a President's XI and Zimbabwe and the first-class hu-miliation against Mashonato varying extents, to acclimatisation; the danger is that England have become accli-

matised to losing. The Zimbabwe captain Alastair Campbell puts England's unimpressive build-up to the first Test into perspecstatus, Zimbabwe's priority has been survival. Now they are bewildered by a novel experience: they actually think

they can win. This is the most confident we have ever been going into a Test series." Campbell said. "() sually our aim is to be competitive and not to lose by a massive margin. This time it's different, this time we are going into the match believing that we can win."

join the senior party in Zimbabwe three days be-

fore the start of the second

Test which begins in Har-

are on Boxing Day, writes

rounder while doubts per-



Beefing it up in Bulawayo . . . Botham makes a pointed observation during practice but Lloyd's thoughts are kept to himself PHOTOGRAPH. STU FORSTER

competent players and they would hardly fill a white-water raft on the Zambezi. There are some resourceful characters - David Houghton's unorthodox and punchy batting, Paul Strang's leg spin and Heath Streak's new-ball bowling pose most danger— but they have won only one Test in their brief history, against Pakistan a year ago. And that 40-1 upset had murky overtones, for the Pakistan side, led by Salim Malik, became embroiled in accusa-

tions of match fixing.

RAIG WHITE, on the months are on Monday revealed a constant consta

ousness of the injury can be

ousness of the highly can be determined.

The delay in White's arrival by a further six days allows him little scope

to settle in before the

of 40-1 yesterday, with most local bookmakers talking of an even game. Yet England, for all the horrors of the past three weeks, have the capacity to win, and win well; all they have to do is believe it. As Raymond Illingworth, the former chairman of selectors, muttered before disappearing into a Spanish sunset, if we cannot beat Zimbabwe we

He played the last of his six Tests 16 months ago against West Indies at

Trent Bridge. He was gen-erally perceived to be a favourite of the former

chairman Raymond Illing-

worth, so much so that it preyed on his confidence. The fact that a new man-

agement team have now

turned to him should con-vince him that his worth is

more widely appreciated.

Nobody was bandying odds | rests between Chris Silverwood and Andrew Caddick unless England are influenced by suggestions that the Queen's pitch will possess more pace and bounce than its sluggish one-day counter-part on Sunday and hence drop the left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell to accommodate four

> Atherton accepts no talk of crisis, just as he refused to ad- one regarded the slip-ups so

suggest that everybody is par-ticularly anxious to beat Eng-land. There is a measure of truth in that, although Australia in New Zealand or India in Pakistan would not be convinced.

Meanwhile John Barclay, England's Old Etonian tour manager, is appalled by what he regards as ghastly media cynicism. He would rather really are in a mess.

With Ronnie Irani umfit and
Alec Stewart keeping wicket
in preference to Jack Russell,
the final seam-bowling place

Tesally are in a mess.

mit to a back injury less than
a fortnight ago when he could
hardly walk. He referred yesterday to "impertalism kicking us in the teeth", as if to
preparation. On the first

and swell Sussex exodus

night, however, the curtain rises and we all thrill to a

Alternatively you might like to regard the first Test as a film. At the Rainbow Cinema in downtown Bulawayo the late show this week hap-pens to be Desperado. It has an 18 certificate and is not for sounds more like it.

SOUTHES HITCH THE TELL STRUCK TO THE TELL STRUCK, Knight, Stewart, Hussain. Thorps, Crawley, Croft. Gough, Gilverwood, Multally, Tufnell, Caddick.

EMBRARMIN Campbell (capt), G Flower.
Carlisle, Houghton, A Flower, Waller, G Whittall, P Strang, Streek, Brandes, Olongs.

"but the gut feeling is, as things stand, we couldn't risk racing in Italy. "There are far greater im-White call to cover for injured Irani Wells primed to join Kent

rest of us?"

reports from almost 200 resorts in Europe and North America.

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La Chissa

SKI SNAPSHOT AT-A-GLANCE GLIDE TO SNOW CONDITIONS A

been called into the squad as an additional all-rounder while doubts.

sist about the fitness of than by rushing for a net or

Ronnic Irani. A scan on two during the Bulawayo Irani's back injury in Har-Test. White's winter began

Schoolboy McShane threatens masters

McShane is close to achieving Britain's youngest ever International Master

Cricket Winter Tour - Zimbabwe 1 Day International For regular score

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The Guardian

McShane, the UK's most promising junior since Nigel Short, outplayed Scotland's

No. 5 Douglas Bryson in 51 moves and leads the 10-player entry with three wins and three draws. The Westminster schoolboy needs 1% points from his remaining three games to achieve the

master norm.
Matthew Sadler did this at
13; Britain's top two players.
Short and Michael Adams, at 14. Three IM results are needed for the full title, which all managed within a year. the list is Short in 10th place; all managed within a year. McShane, who won the Sadler is 25th, his best placing world under-10 championship | yet.

HE 12 year-old Luke | result after his fine start at the | aged eight, is already the Caledonian Masters in Edin-burgh, writes Leonard Burden. Short's record, set in 1979, as the youngest UK interna-tional tournament winner if he wins in Edinburgh. • Garry Kasparov, Joint leader with Vassily Ivanchuk

of the Ukraine in the Las Palmas tournament, has in-creased his lead over his rivals in the January 1997 Fide world rankings. The world champion has 2,795 points, 30 ahead of India's Vishy Anand and 35 in front of his Russian rival Anatoly

Coventry set to reject soccer club takeover bid

City's chairman Bryan

that the rugby committee was actually voting on the propos als on Monday. I am staggered and very surprised that people can make such an important decision so quickly.

"Given a proper airing and if people are given time to assess the logic of what we have put to them, they will realise this is a sensible solution to a difficult situation. There should not be a knee-jerk reaction because of a supposed £1 million "

The rugby club were set to accept the Leander bid last

recalled John Stabler for their Pilkington Cup fifth-round tie at Newcastle on month before Richardson in-tervened and asked for time the injured centre Chris

ALAN WELLS, stripped of firm offer to the Newhaven-born player, who has two born player, who has two years of his contract to run. Jimmy Adams took five wickets in a career-best haul seven defeats with an em-phatic seven-wicket win over

best score in one-day cricket tershire have also made a with 86 off 79 deliveries.

as West Indies ended a run of match in Adelaide yesterday After restricting Pakistan to 176 all out in 48.4 overs thanks

to their makeshift spinner. West Indies reached 177 for three off only 36.1 overs, Junior Murray equalling his

Joos Joubert, the Springbok

full-back Andre Joubert's

cousin, who had an outstand-

ing game at centre last Satur-

day when South Africa A de-feated the Emerging Wales team at Swansea. The 24-year-

old, who plays for Natal, met Swansea officials after the

game but is expected to be-

come a full international in

the next few months and that

is likely to put him out of the

seven weeks ago, is on the verge of joining Kent. The experienced 35-year-old batsman, who won a Test cap against West Indies in 1995, has been offered attractive

terms by Kent, believed to be He seems certain to join the exodus of players from Hove unless Sussex can produce a long-term deal of their own, possibly linked to a coaching or managerial role at the end of his playing career. Glouces-

White ... 16-month gap

Rugby Union

over five years.

OVENTRY CITY have suf-fered a setback in their at-deadline, said: "I wasn't aware | Joos Joubert, the Springbok tempt to take over the city's rugby club.
The proposal centred on

Coventry RFC selling their Coundon Road ground to finance redevelopment of the derelict Butts sports stadium and using the football club's Highfield Road for Sunday matches. However, the rugby club's committee have recommended that members vote at tomorrow's egm for a pro-posal submitted by the Leander property company which promises a move to a new stadium and £1 million from a share issue.

Richardson, who submitted to put forward a package.

club's price range.

• West Hartlepool have

The world governing body Fia warned that it might face "difficulty" persuading com-petitors from outside Italy to and we are confident in his ability to sort it out." participate in the San Marino and Italian grands prix. There problem requiring a uniquely Italian solution," said Mosley. may also be a problem recruiting race officials after the charge against Roland Brunseyraede, the Belgian

Boycott mood

spreads after

death charges

ever, replacing the two Italian events would not pose any race director who oversaw ready 17 races — one more the tragedy at Imola in 1994. than usual - on the 1997 calwake of comments by Flavio Briatore, the head of Benet-ton, who said he would boy-Spain, could easily step in to keep 16 rounds in the champicott the two races if anyone were convicted. "Fatality is

◆ Lola have signed Ricardo Rosset, the Brazilian displaced by Damon Hill at Arrows, and the Italian Vincenzo Sospiri to spearhead their grand prix challenge next season.

Mansell rejects Jordan chance

NIGEL MANSELL has de-cided not to return to Formula One next year, the wheel of a Jordan-Peugeot in Barcelona.

"The idea of the test was originally to have some fun, but my natural comnetitive instinct took over and a return to F1 with Jordan became a serious possibility." said the 43-year-old Briton. "However, after consultations with my family and business advisers, I would not permit me to give sufficient time to the plications than simply those give sufficient for the competing teams. It is Jordan team."

Chess

Rough Quest back with a victory, page 13 City make a new play for Kidd, page 14

Wembley captures the national prize, page 15 Atherton faces a test of resolve, page 15

Sports Guardian

SOCCER

Premiership: Liverpool 4, Nottingham Forest 2

Liverpool soar to the top

freely at Anfield for the second time in three days, find themselves at the top of the Premiership by two points this morning, a ominous sight no doubt for others that share the Merseyside club's lofty ambition. Despite the emphatic mar-

gin of their victory this was not a vintage performance, but it did not really need to be against a Nottingham forest side that fought hard but is fast beginning to appreciate that relegation is more of a probability than a possibility. They opened brightly enough, but the sweet rhythm that Liverpool had struck against Middlesbrough on Saturday seemed to have suffered no disruption at all during three days of relative inactivity, and they rolled over Forest like a rising tide. McManaman's free-spirited

breaks down the right constantly opened up a defence which, the dependable Pearce apart, quivered like a leaf in a

stiff breeze.

It is collectively that Forest continue to disappoint, for although the component parts would appear to be in place there is no discernible sense of unity. Indeed it was typical of Clark's current ill-fortune that he had lost the influen-tial Chettle to injury on an evening which screamed out for experienced defenders.

After only four minutes Allen had to hook the ball off the line after Wright's header took a fortuitous deflection off Ruddock's aboulder.

After his heroics at the weekend it was almost freshing to be reminded ject to human frailties. In the from 20 yards drifted over the advancing Crossley but cleared the crossbar by



Ex-rated horror show for Forest . . . Collymore, their former striker, opens the scoring for Liverpool at Antield last night

however, Liverpool scoring their inevitable opening goal after seven minutes. It was no masterpiece, though. Crossat the feet of Fowler, who un. Collymore, who succeeded in Unfortunately, just as against selfishly pushed it forward getting the first touch and Blackburn Rovers and New-

Forest's respite was brief, into the path of Stan Collymore. The former Forest striker and the current Forest goalkeeper arrived at the ball

finding the unguarded target Forest fleetingly hinted at a revival as Liverpool's swag-gering self-confidence threat-

castle United, their chances fell to Hasland. A talented player with a burgeoning reputation for looking gift horses ings before Liverpool went further ahead after 27 minutes.

Collymore, freed down the right by Babb's delightful ss, reached the byline bepass, reached the byline be-fore lobbing over a smart cross which Fowler converted with a close-range header. It seemed probable at this point that Forest would curi

up and die, but somehow they restored the game's competi-tive edge 11 minutes before the interval when Kevin Campbell turned in a scruffy goal after Liverpool had failed to deal adequately with an Allen corner.
The goal was rather more

than Forest deserved and made a mockery of Liver-pool's overwhelming superi-ority, but it did little to effect a change in the balance of

Mitterrand:

contribution

to public life.

particularly in

France," Who

Francis Wheen's

Christmas quiz

page 5

would have

thought it?

"He made

a great

power. Liverpool treated it as a minor setback, a pin-prick of an irritation, and within six minutes of the restart they

other name, a fluke, Des Lyttle heading into his own net in a desperate attempt to clear a ball that looped to him off the legs of his goalkeeper. On the hour the trusty left boot of Stuart Pearce drove Forest back into contention, a

abulous strike after Phillips had touched a free-kick to him, but Liverpool's response came within three minutes. Berger, a substitute for Fowler, who limped off with a slight injury, crossed with pace from the left and Colly-more effortlessly steered the

ball home. Liverpoel: James; McAlzer, Wrighl (Matteo, 45min), Bebb, Ruddock Bjørnebys, McManaman, Barnes, Thomas, Collymors, Fowler (Berger, 58). Notingiam Forest: Crosley, Lytie Coper, Warner, Pearce, Philips, Campbell, Hasland, Allen, Woan, Seunders.

BBC's review almost over the Hill



Jim White

UNDAY evening proved beyond question that bitter-sweet is no longer the bestknown oxymoron in the English language: Damon Hill was voted the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year.

Uninspiring he may be but Hill showed a nifty goarchange in the chicane to shake off concerted campaigns mounted on behalf of rivals. As usual the fishing lobby tried to have their man Bob Nudd, installed through vigorous gerrymandering, and a bunch of students flooded the BBC with e-mail

nominating Justin Fashanu. The most convincing effort came from Regutta magazine, which printed a voting slip with Steve Redgrave's name on it and urged readers to post it in. Like the Labour Party apparatchiks' efforts to spin Tony Blair to the Today programme's Man of the Year award, however, it failed and Redgrave, possibly for the first time in his life, trailed in

second.
Hill, blinking softly as he received the trophy, blandly delivered the required platitudes. These, oddly, did not in-clude thanks to Williams for supplying him with the tools with which to become Formula One champion of the world. Though on second thoughts such a comment might have been a bit super-fluous, like Evander Holyfleld

thanking his mum and dad for But Hill did pay generous tribute to the BBC for covering his sport so expertly. Which added an extra poignancy to the proceedings: next season the BBC will not be broadcasting the sport in which its Personality of the

Indeed there was a sense in which Sunday's programme marked less a review of the year than the end of an era: motor racing is on its way from the corporation's clutches, the FA Cup will soon be gone, and who knows what is happening with the Five

ocratic efforts of Messrs King

23 Male relation gets on with

24 Expose armour for pigeon-

26 Vessel put in riksha or taxi (5)

27 Cut short the inexperienced

in place of the good old

1 Moderate half-way to 8? (6-

2 Shrub from North African

3,25 Jokes about boy king in his Sunday best (4,4)

5 Why bridge players get a bit

6 Richard at no. 1 — more apt

salad plant (7)

post etc (3.4)

babby (4.5)

2-3-4)

islands (8)

4 "We galloped --I-leather?) (3,5)

to beatle? (5.3) 7 Puzzle with variations (6

Nations Championship? It won't be long before the BBC's entire Sports Review esembles the round-up of the boxing year screened on Sunday, which, thanks to the dem-

and Warren, is already reduced to a couple of stills and some footage of pugilists on training jogs along the beach The shame is that the BBC does this kind of thing so well; no matter how dull the winner of the award is, the Sports Review of the Year is an essential night in for lans across the country.

As usual there were plenty of reminiscences: Robble and Henry Paul showing Jack Rowell how rugby can be played; Greg Norman proving that it is not only the England cricket team who are prone to self-destruction; and Dickle Bird walking out at Lord's for the last time so choked with emotion that he attempted to wipe away his tears without

There was fun in the studio too: a re-enactment of Euro 96 involving schoolchildren which was only marginally less kughable than the actual event's opening ceremony; Willie Carson and Walter Swinburn presenting Frankle Dettori with a birthday cake In the shape of a horse's head, apparently supplied by bakers to the Mafia; and a Paralympian flirting with Sue Barker (he admitted afterwards he was visually impaired). Also there was Des Lynam, gently teasing the superstars in his audience.

"So." he said to Terry Vena-bles, who had clearly been put-ting in a few hours under the sunlamp in preparation for taking up his job as Austra-lia's football coach, "you've got the big one coming up . . .

And when Michael Johnson claimed that his run in the Olympic 200 metres final was not by any means his perfect race, Des. quick as the finsh from a pair of gold Nikes, responded: "Where did you go wrong, exactly?"

S ALWAYS, too, there forgotten. This year it was a penulty shootout involving Dettori, Donovan Bailey, Tim Henman, Denise Lowis and Frank Bruno, who, forgetting his trainers, cut a pantomime figure in shorts, no socks and a pair of crocodile-skin kanfers.

In goal was Peter Shilton, who last Saturday completed his 999th league match when Leyton Orient played Fulham. The sight of Bruno's winner spinning off a loafer and trickling through Shilton's legs will not have had many Os fans licking their lips in anticipa-tion of his 1,000th appearance.

For the rest of us it threw up equally sobering possibilities: that within five years the big-gest event the BBC will have to review will be pro-celebrity penalty shoot-out.

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Across 9 Diamonds left in carnera holder to be picked up by

sucker (4,5) 10 Collation in French for the one church (5) 11 Call journalist a model

character in the Doctor's

Dilemma (7) 12 Escaper makes arbitrator turn to horse (7) 13 See 22

14 Swallow, one of a pack, is plastic (6,4) 15 Drinker and how he's eyed

17 Skip a page for a rough and toothed blade (3,4) 19 As a bridge over the Carnel should be? (10)

food? (4.3)

22,13 Lost holding each way in wet part of Scotland (4,4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,838

8 Extinction of family at railhead (3,3,2,3,4)

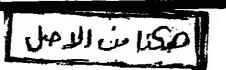
16 Hotelier turned up before Prohibition without a licence

17 Sound upper part of bridge according to chief priest (8) 18 Necromantically relead chap up on wrong date (8)

20 Lane for computer? (6) 21 Land to preserve commercial article (6)

25 See 3 Solution ton

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